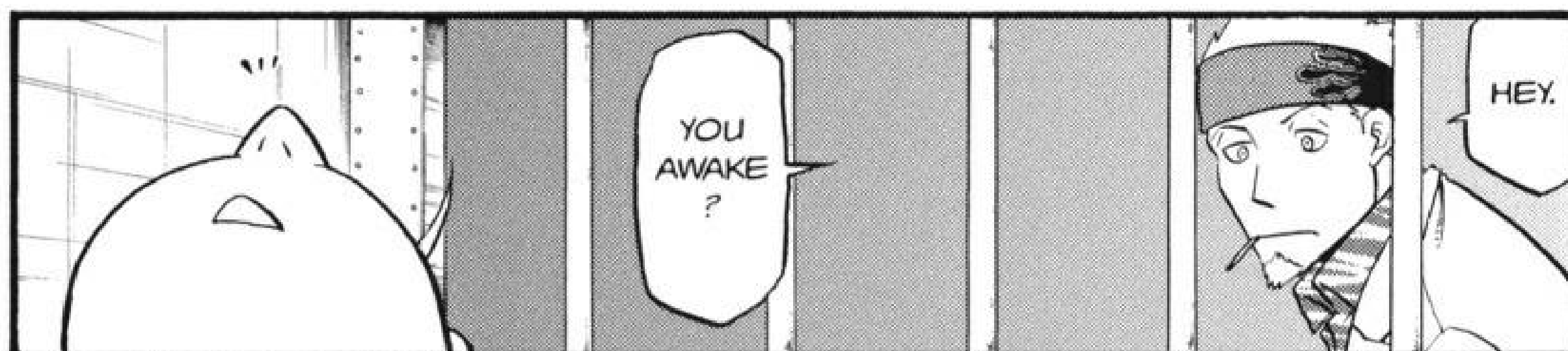
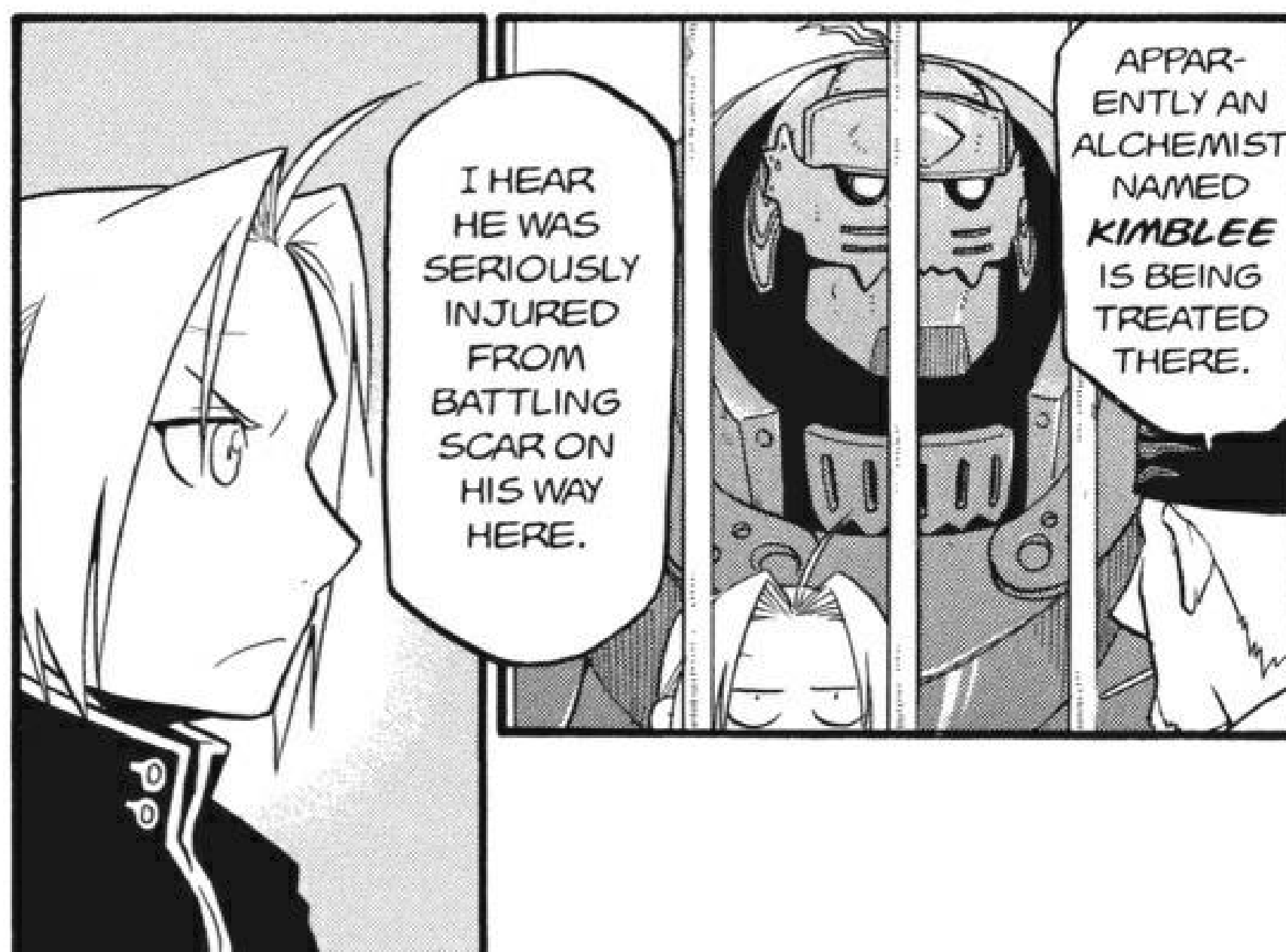






Chapter 67

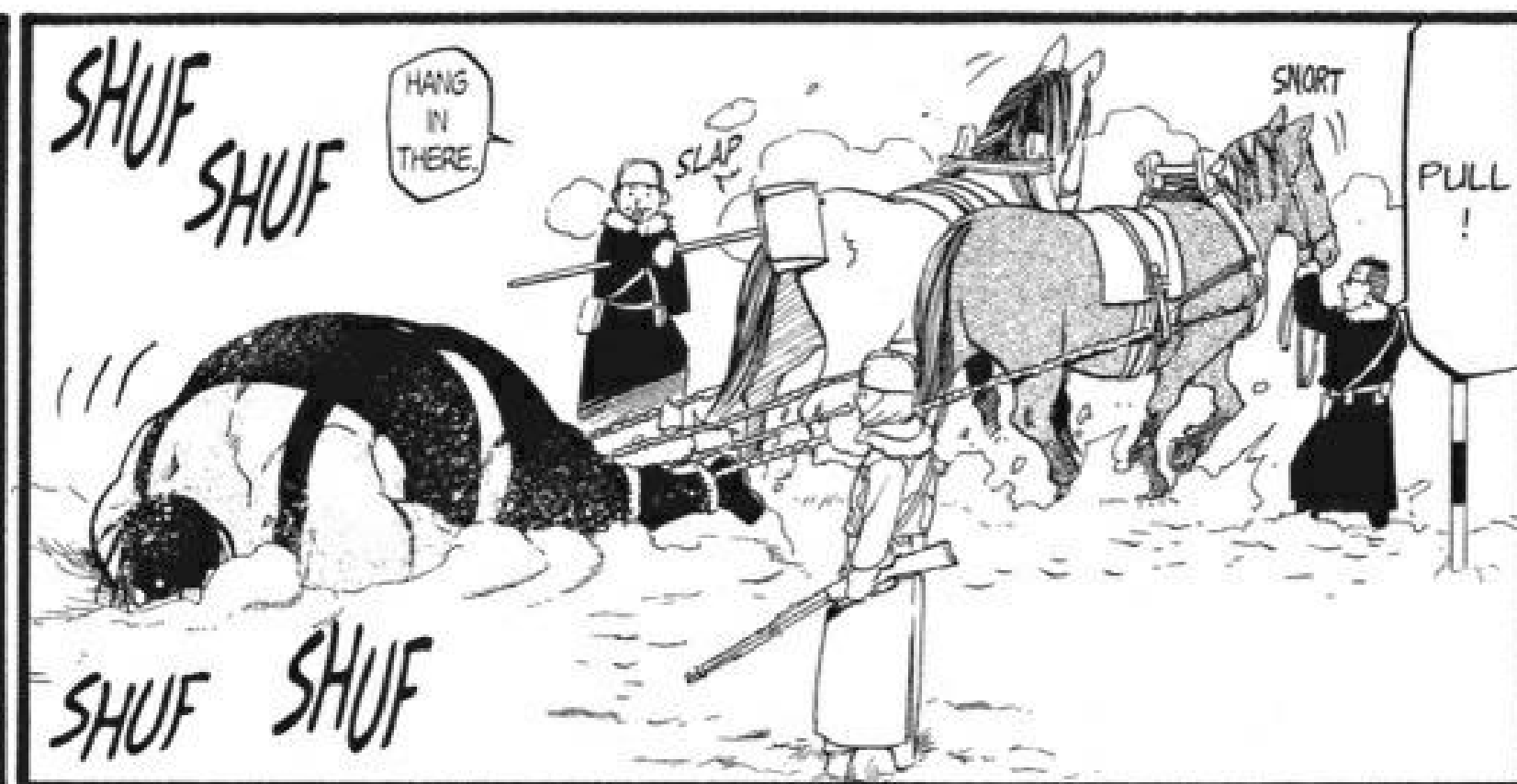
Burgeoning Borders



SCAR
AND THE
RED LOTUS
ALCHEMIST
ARE BOTH
HERE
IN THE
NORTH...
?



READY...



I HAVE A
MEET-
ING
TO GET
TO.

DOWN
TO
THE
HOS-
PITAL.



CLAK

WHERE
TO,
SIR?

YES,
SIR.

THIS TIME
OF YEAR,
THE SHADE
ACTS AS A
NATURAL
FREEZER.

YOU'RE
MOVING
IT INTO
THE
SHADE?

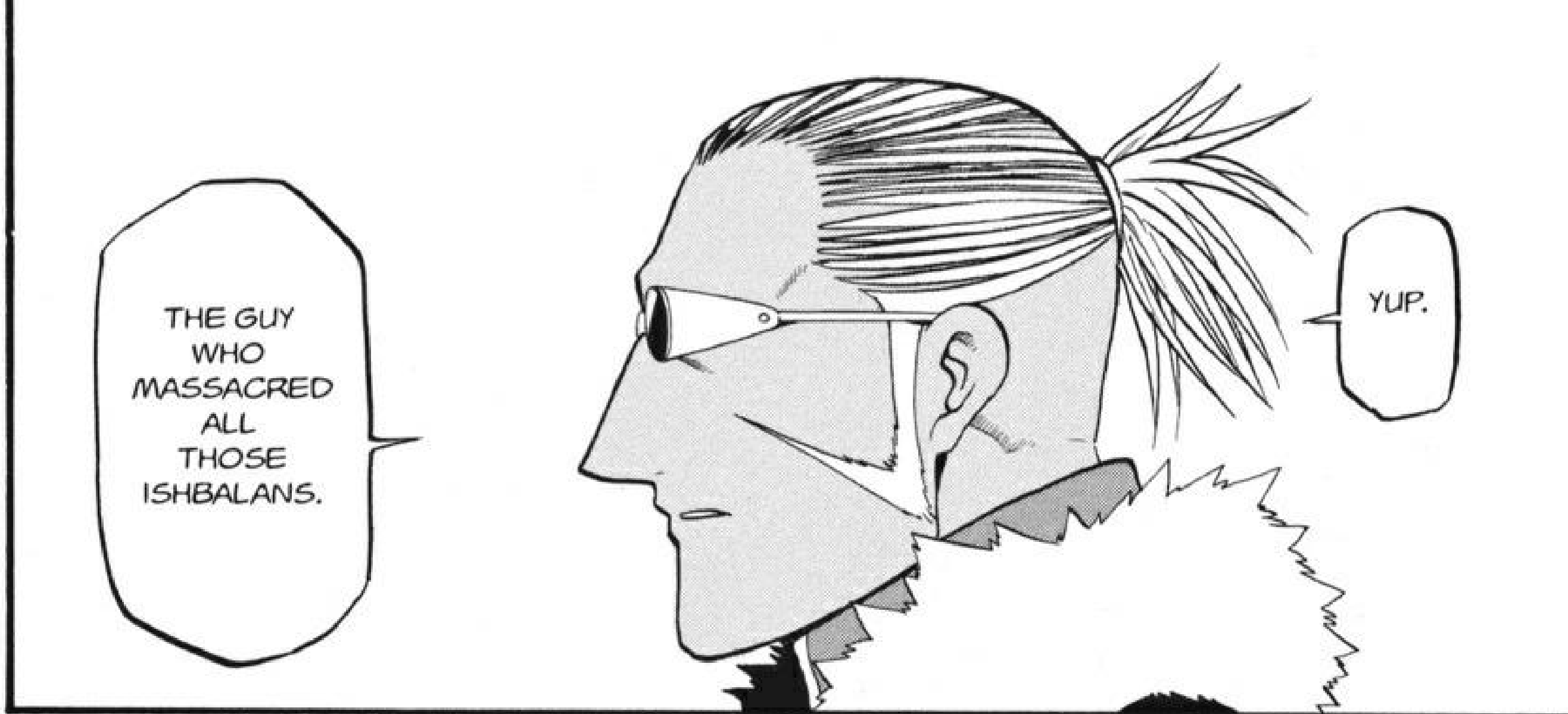
HUH?!
YOU
MEAN...

SOLF J.
KIMBLEE
IS
THERE-
HOSPITAL-
IZED.

READY...

PULL!





THE GUY
WHO
MASSACRED
ALL
THOSE
ISHBALANS.

YUP.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

WHICH
MEANS
THEY'RE
MOST LIKELY
STILL ALIVE
AND HIDING
SOMEWHERE
AROUND
HERE.

THEY DIDN'T
FIND THE BODIES
OF SCAR OR THE
GUY HE WAS
WITH-SOME
MIDDLE-AGED
MAN-IN THE
FREIGHT CARS
THAT GOT CUT
LOOSE...



I'M ONLY
WARNING
THE
SOLDIERS
OF BRIGGS
AS A
COURTESY.

KEEP ON
GUARDING
YOUR FORT,
AND DON'T
GET IN
MY WAY.



FIRST
THE
SEARCH
FOR A
BLACK-
AND-
WHITE
CAT...
...AND
NOW
SCAR.

GREAT...
MORE
BUSY-
WORK.



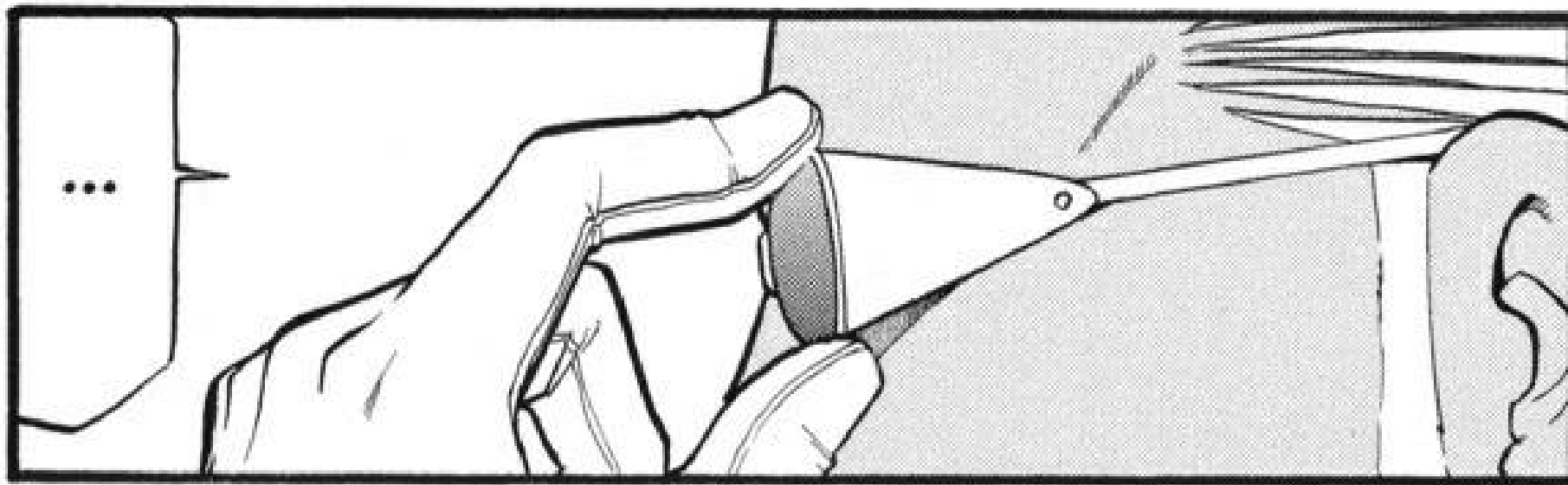
THIS IS
STILL
MY
ASSIGN-
MENT.



LEAVE
SCAR TO
US AND
FOCUS
ON YOUR
RE-
COVERY.

NOT
SO
FAST.

UNDER-
STOOD.

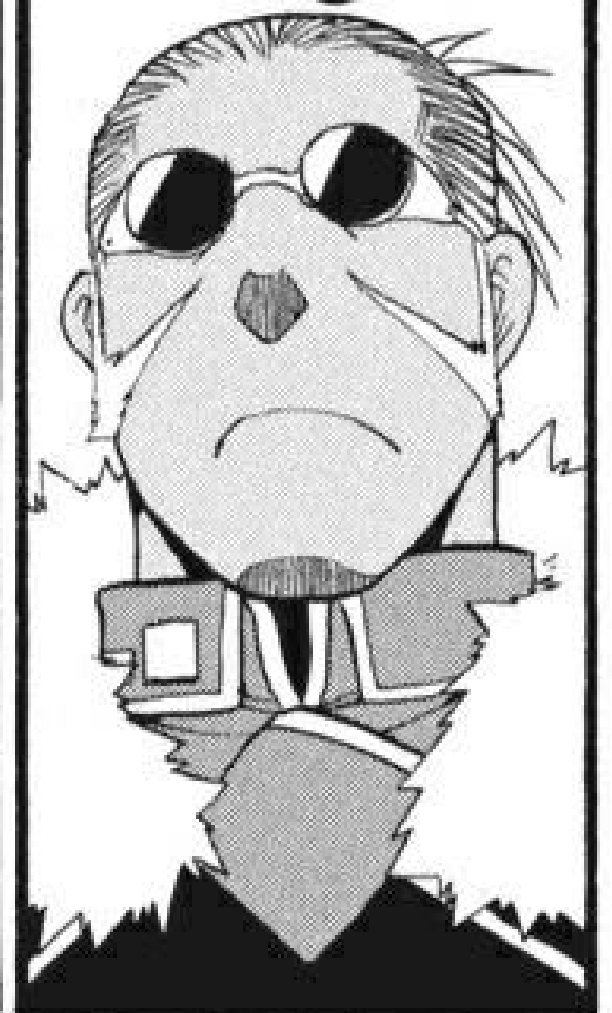


THE
ISHBALAN
IS *MY*
PREY.



THE ONLY
LAW HERE
IS THE
SURVIVAL
OF THE
FITTEST.

SORRY, PAL. WE
BRIGGS SOLDIERS
AREN'T ABOUT
TO LET A *MASS-*
MURDERER
ROAM FREE ON
OUR TURF.



HM
?

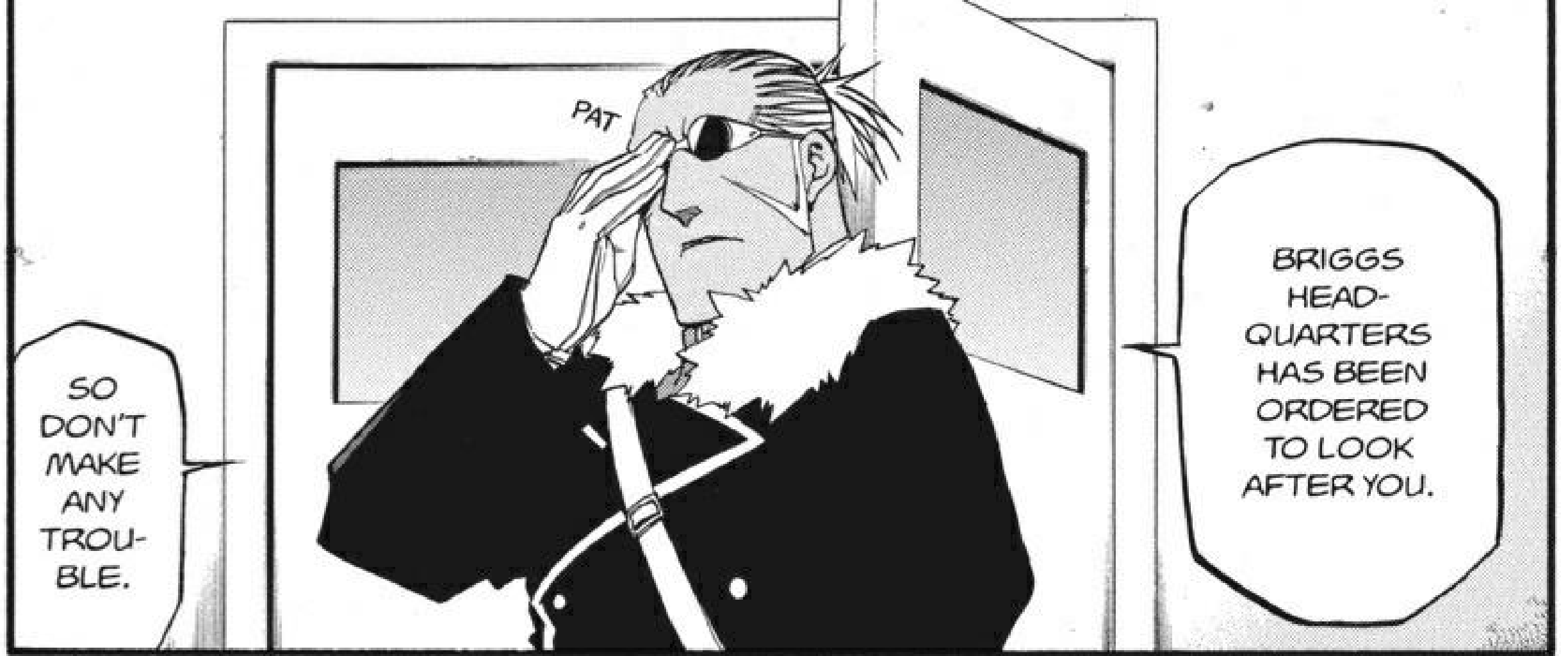
AM I
MAKING
MY-
SELF
CLEAR
?

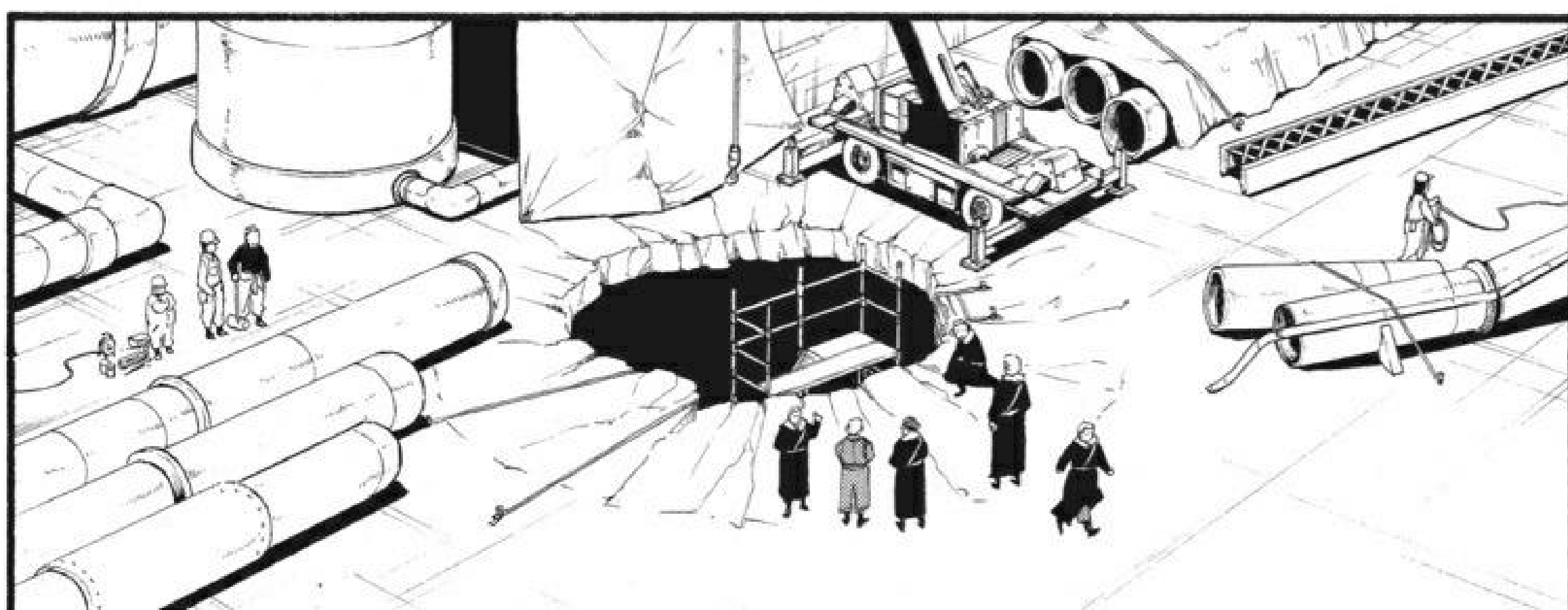
LET
YOUR
GUARD
DOWN
FOR A
SECOND
AND YOU
DIE.



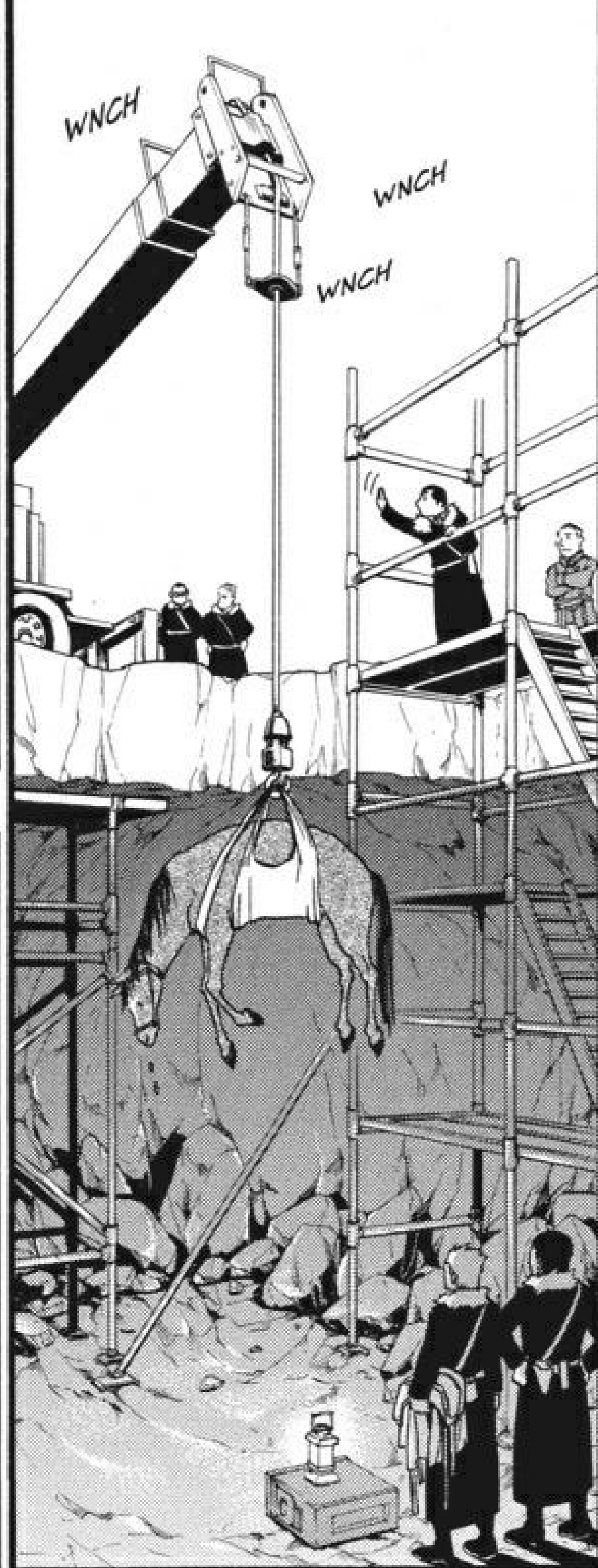
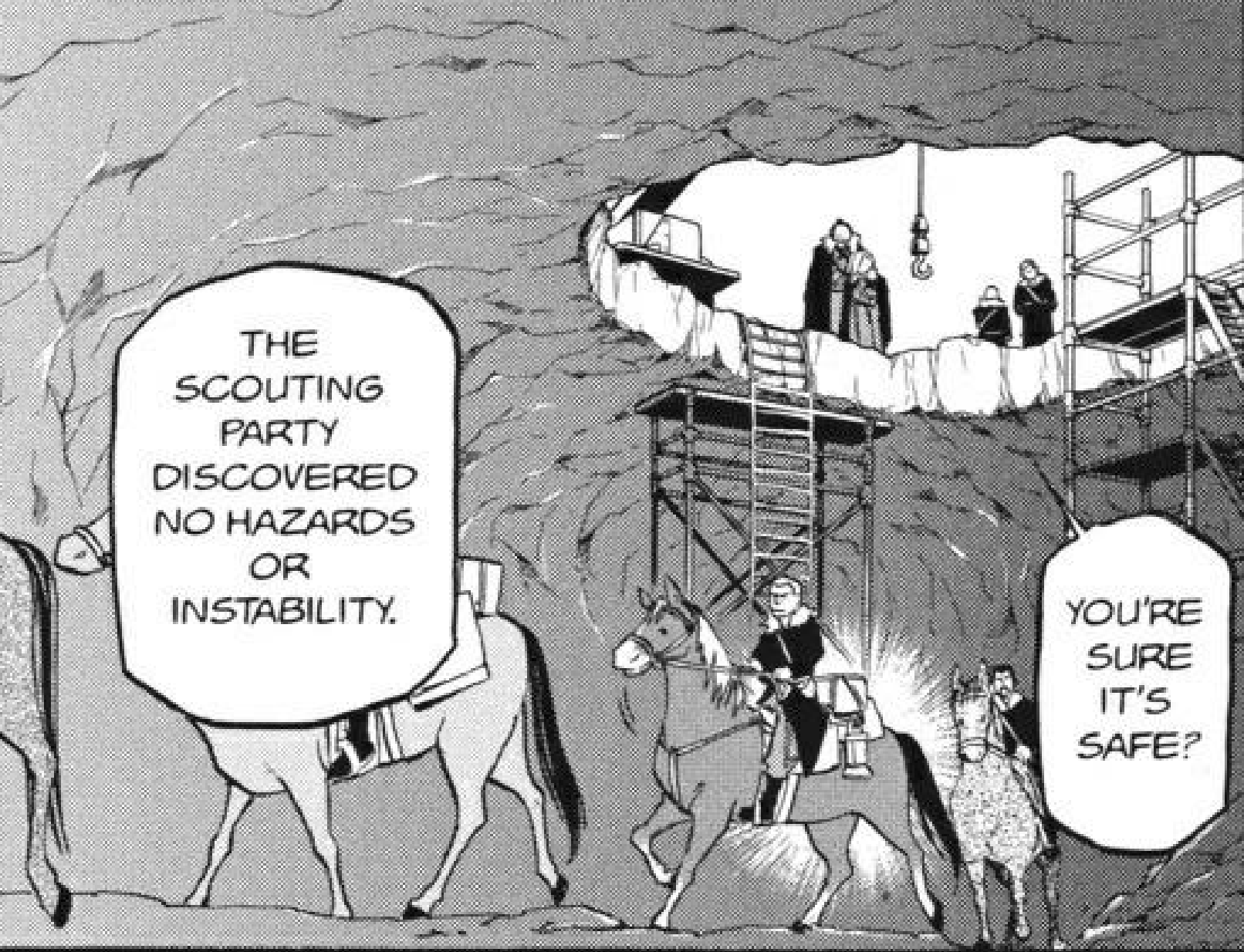
KEEP UP
THE TOUGH
GUY ACT,
AND I'LL
CUT YOUR
LIFELINE
RIGHT
NOW!

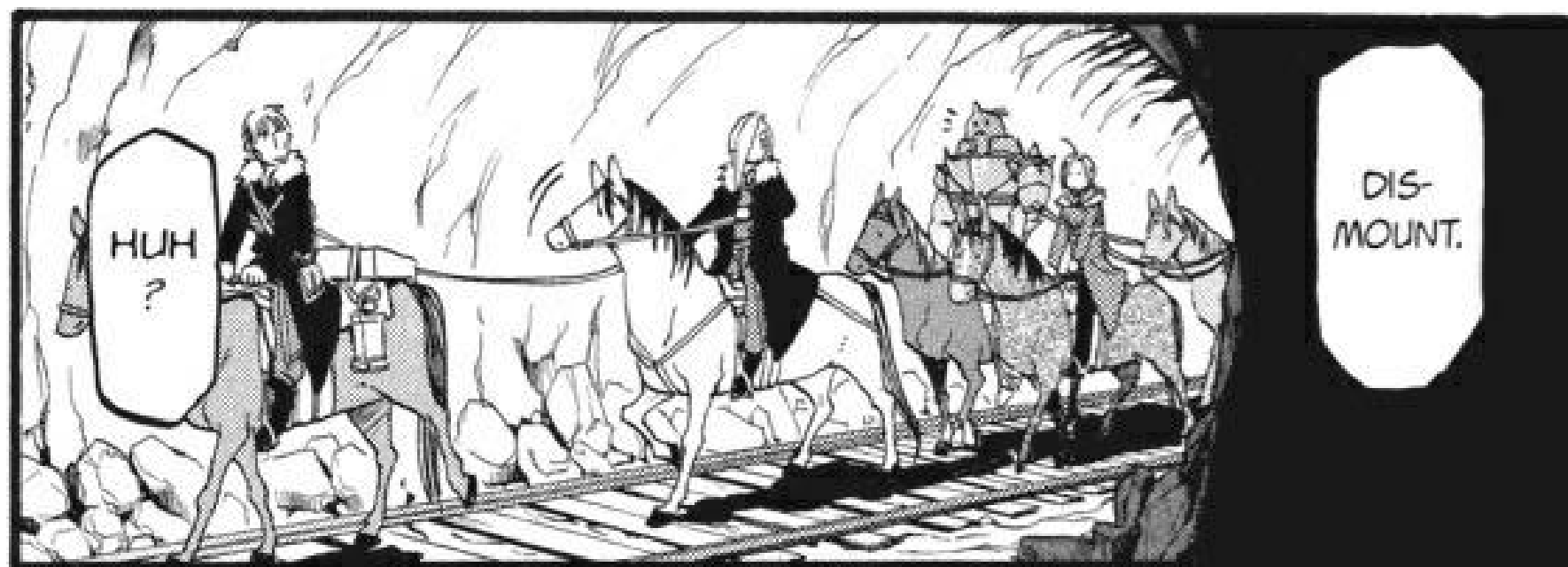
WHAT CAN
YOU DO
IN YOUR
CONDI-
TION,
RED
LOTUS?

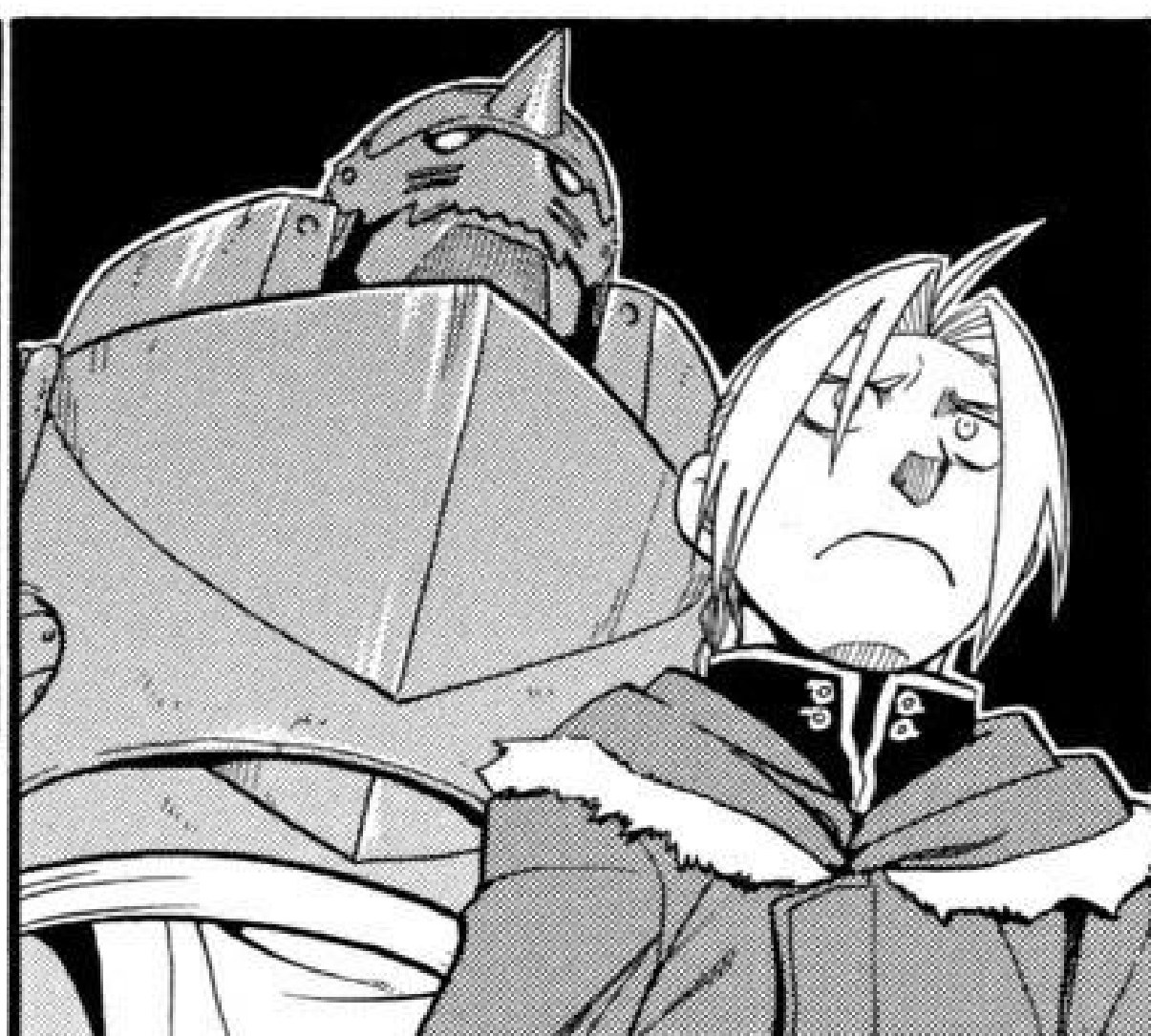
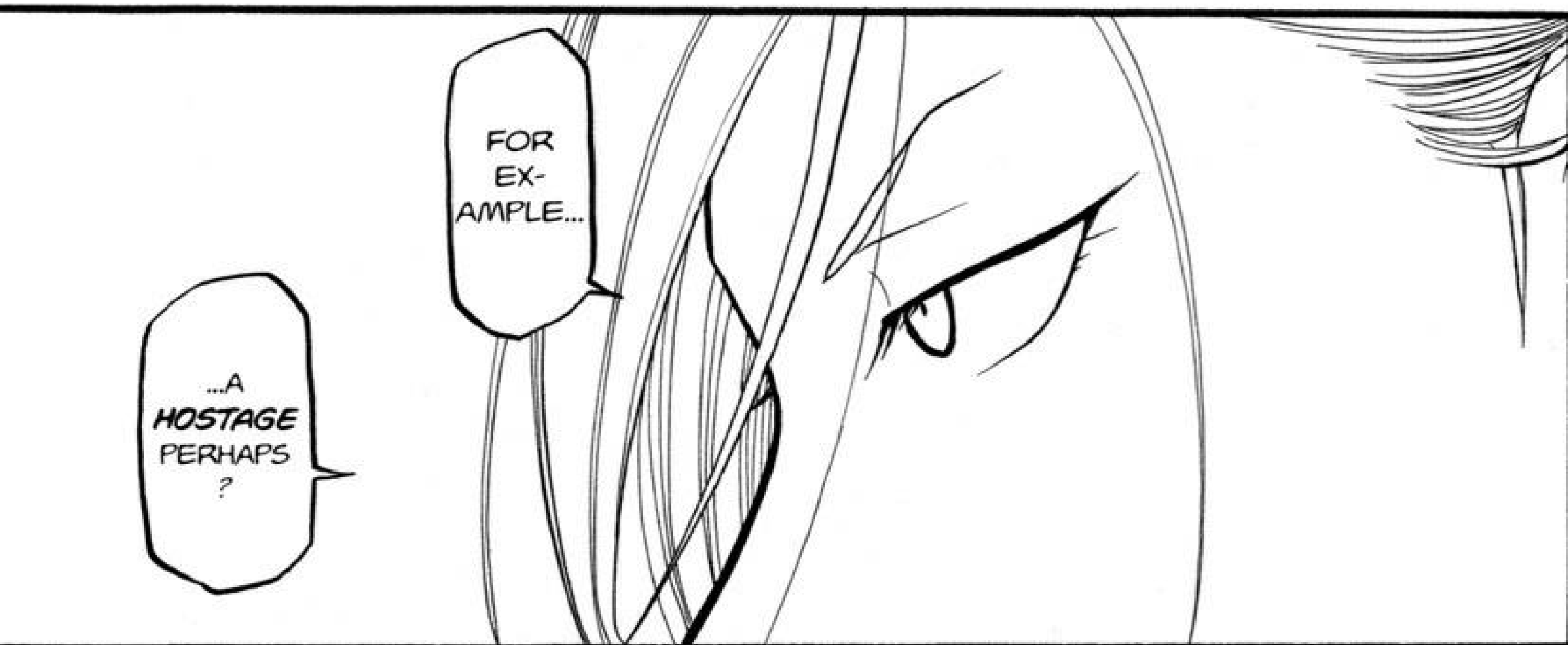
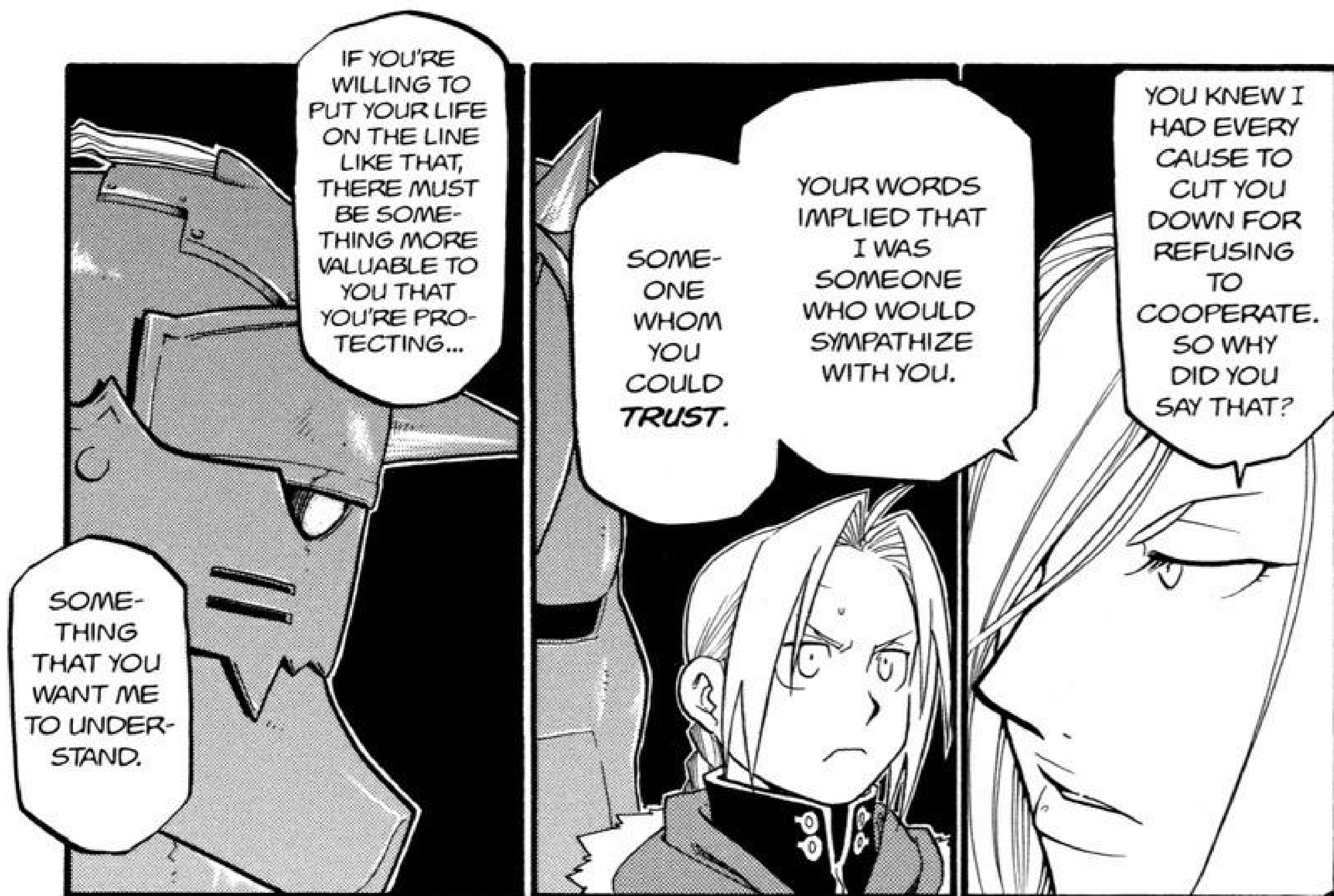














I
NEED
YOUR
HELP.



I DON'T
WANT ANY
LIES,
SECRECY,
OR DE-
CEPTION.

SPEAK
THE
TRUTH.



IT'S MY
CHILD-
HOOD
FRIEND,
THE
AUTO-
MAIL
ENGI-
NEER.

THOSE
THINGS
THAT
CAN'T BE
KILLED...
THEY
KNOW MY
WEAK-
NESS.



SHAKE SHAKE



TOK

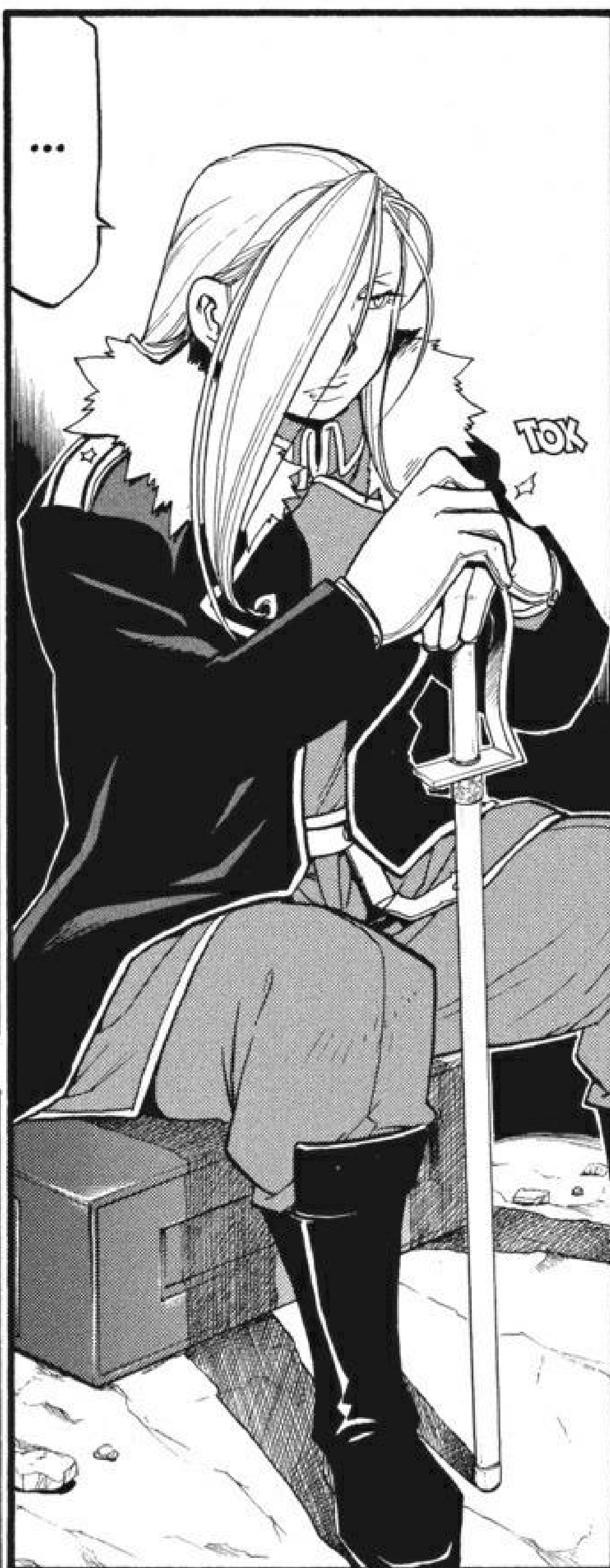
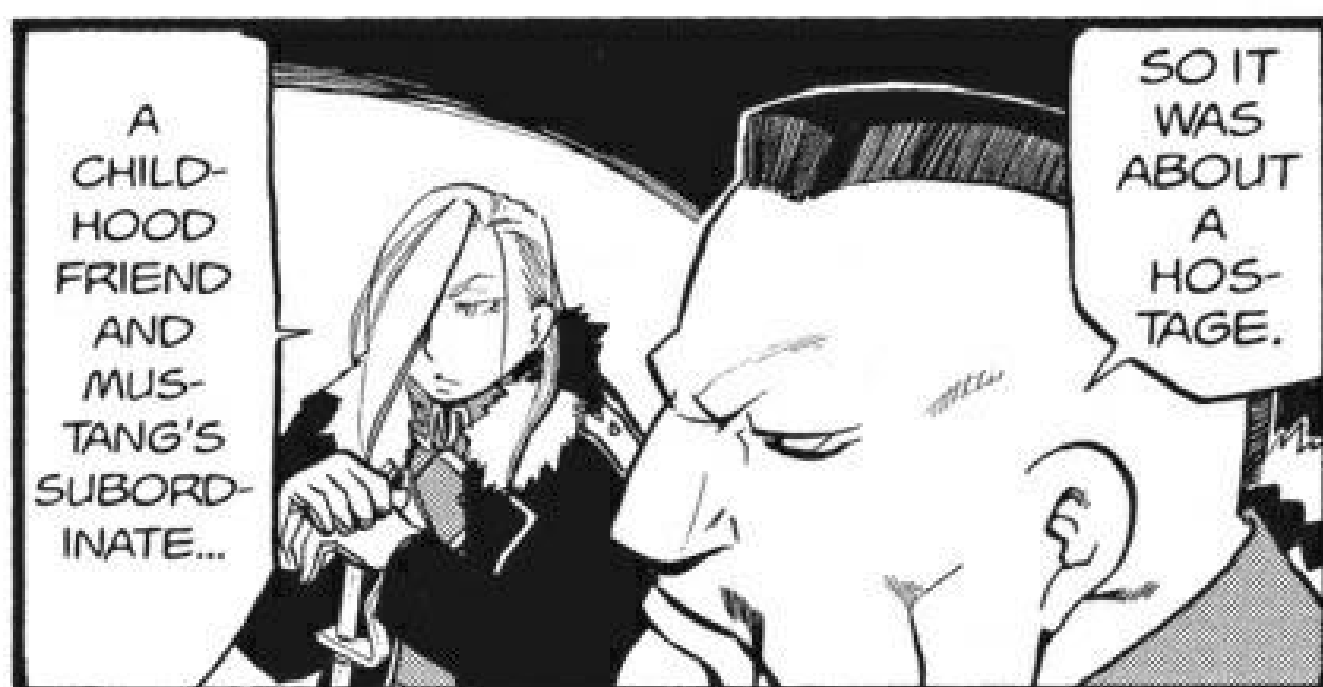
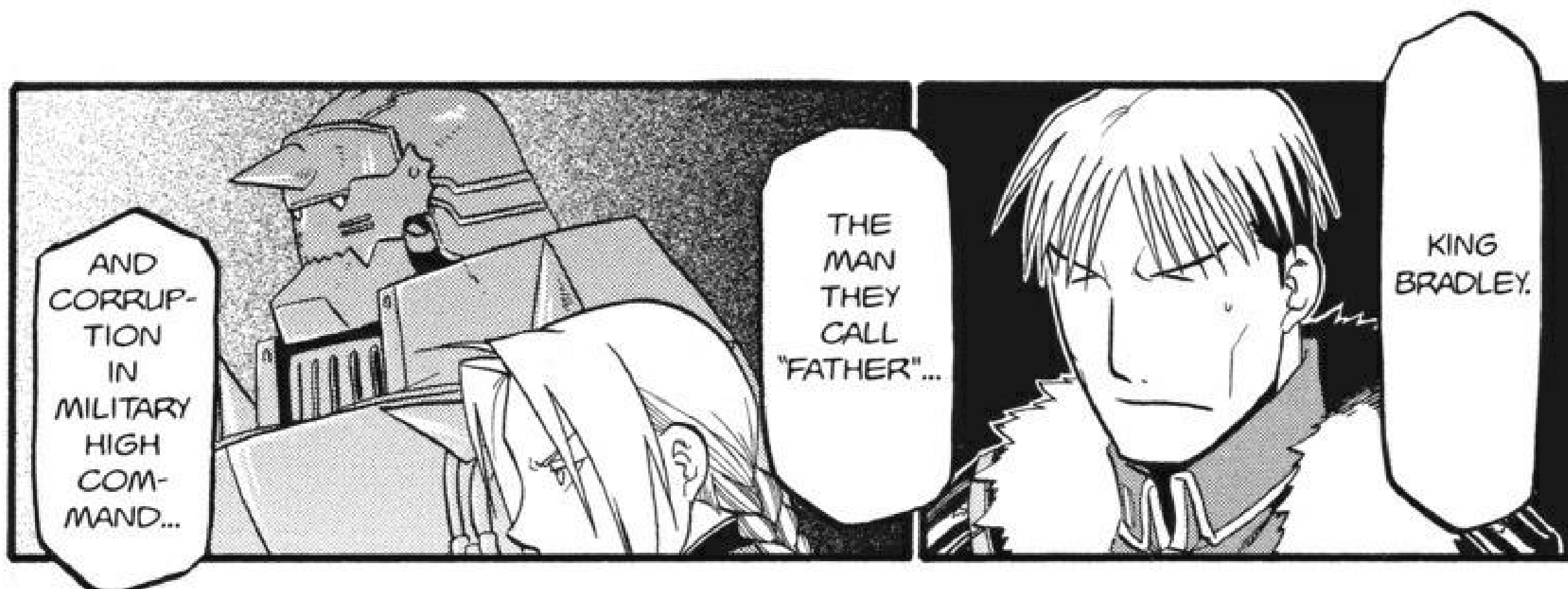
TOK

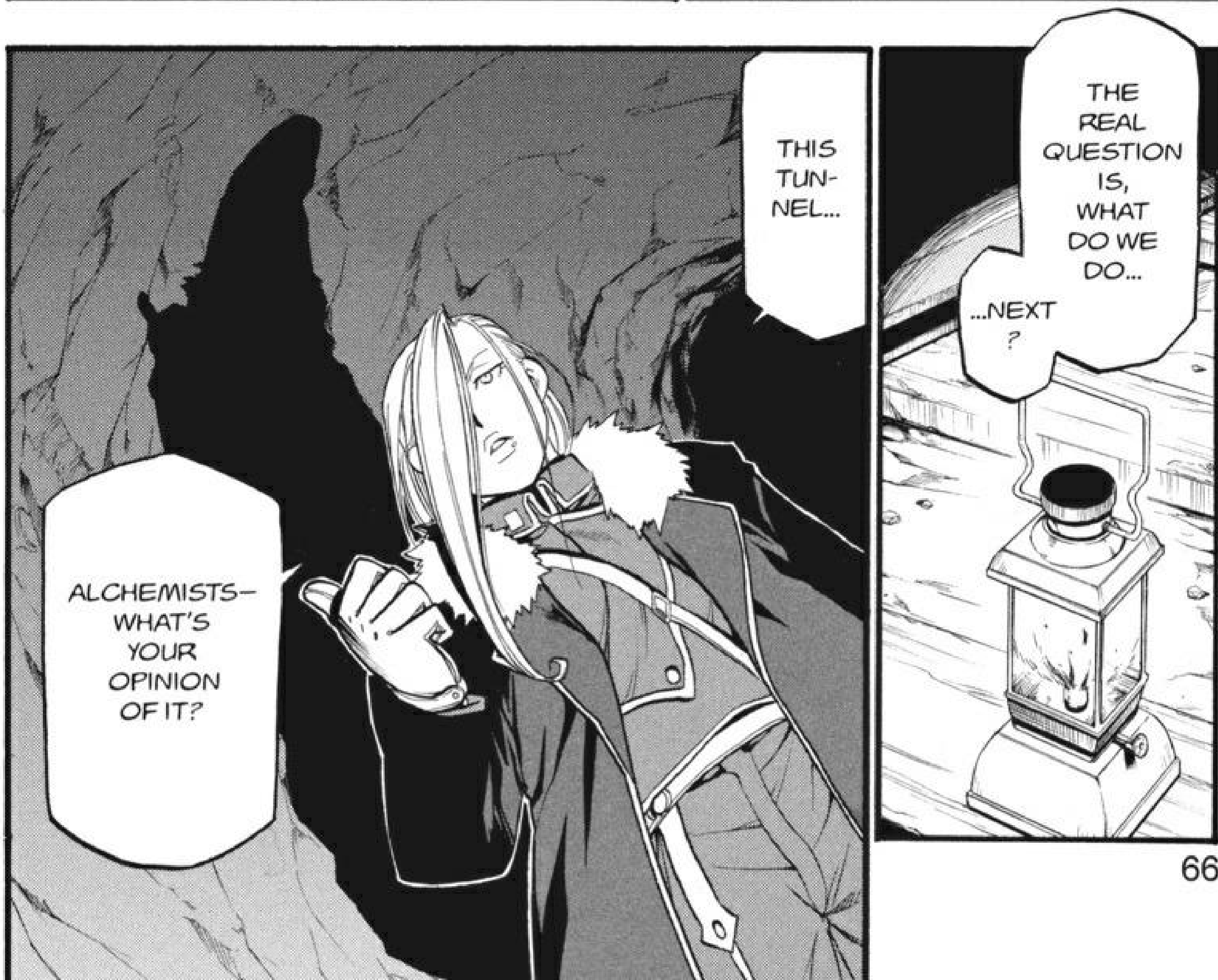
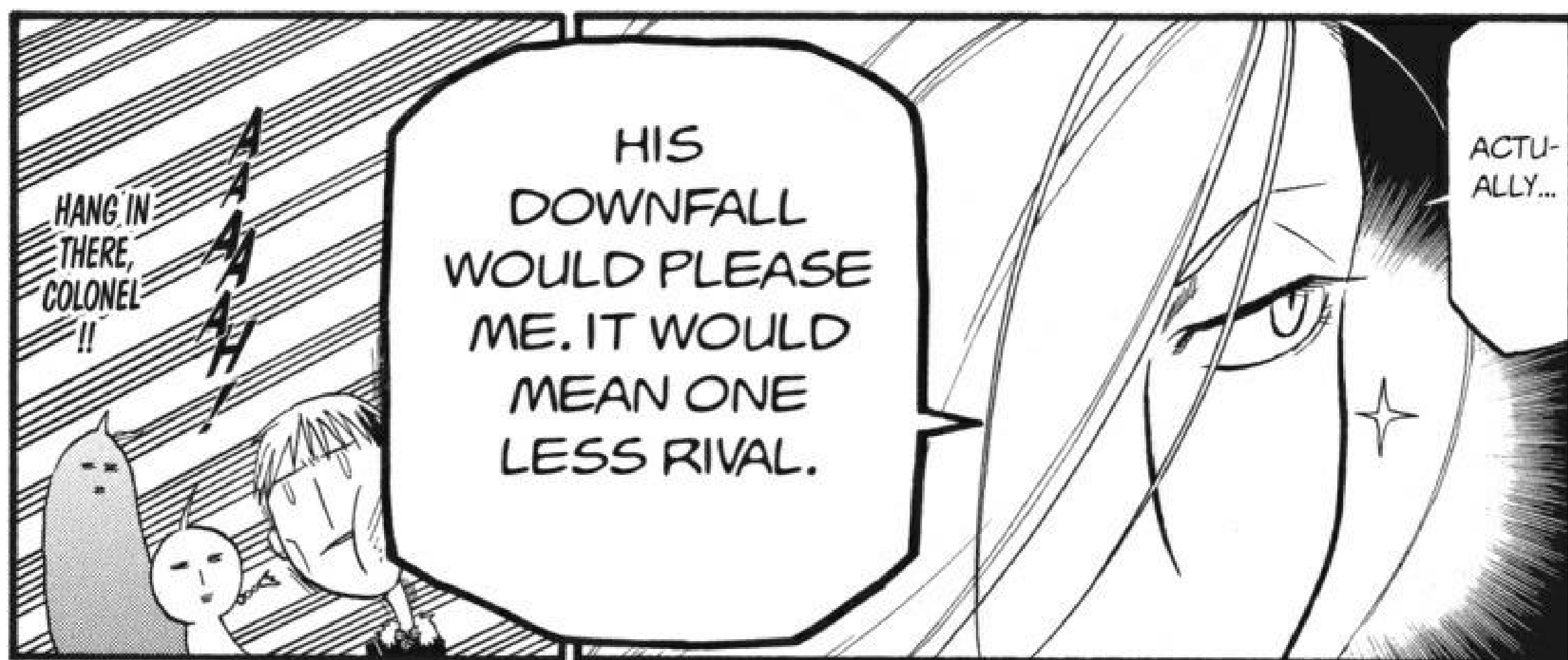
THE
HOMUN-
CULI.

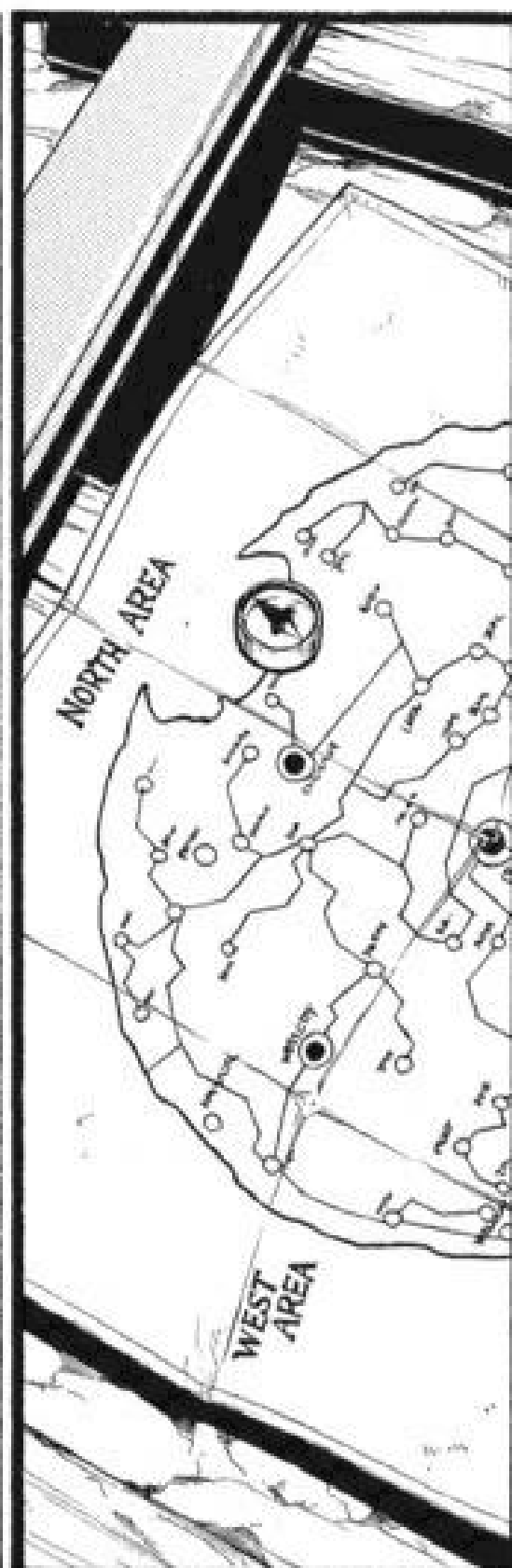
THE
PHILOS-
OPHER'S
STONE.



DRIP

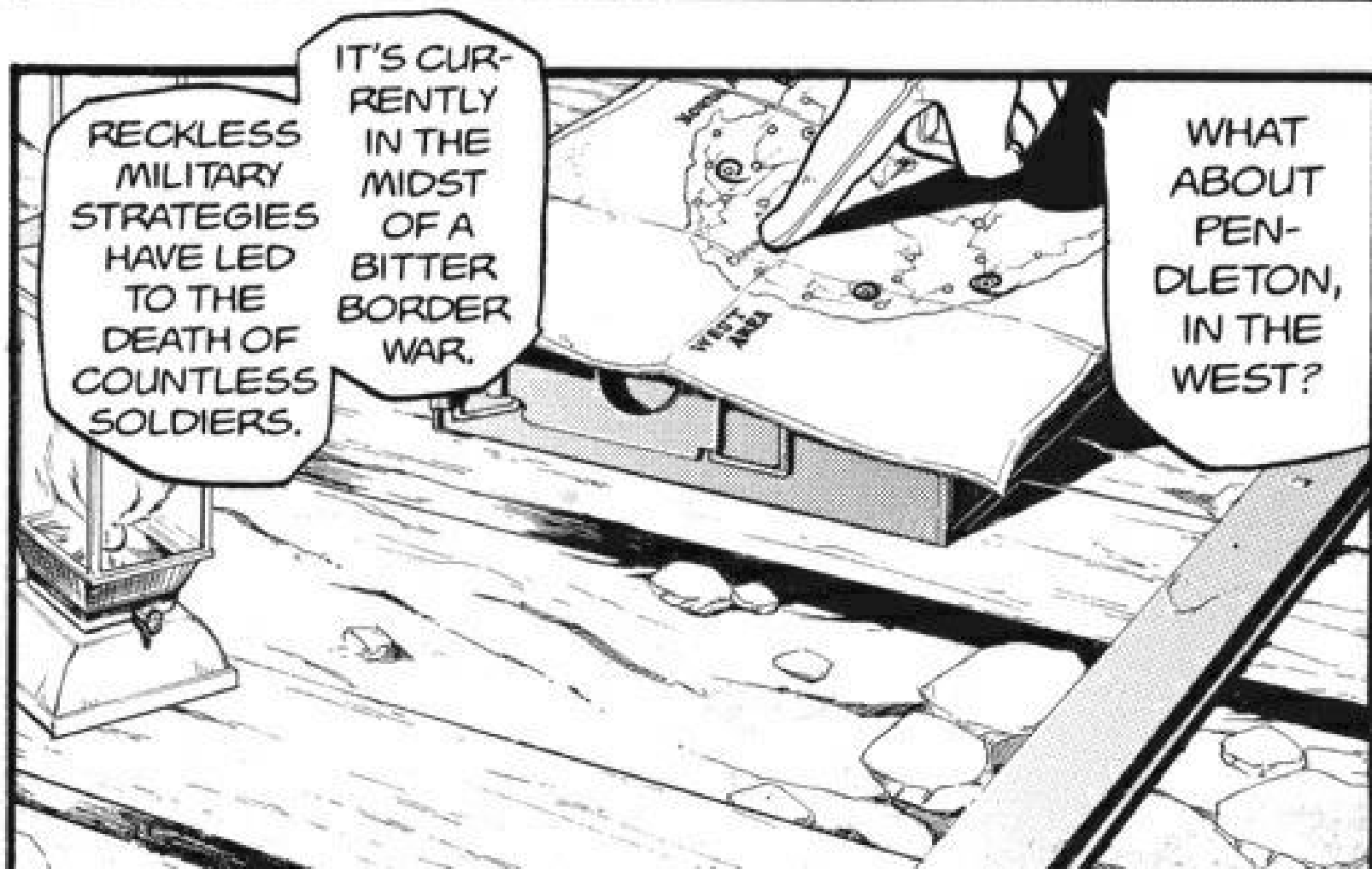


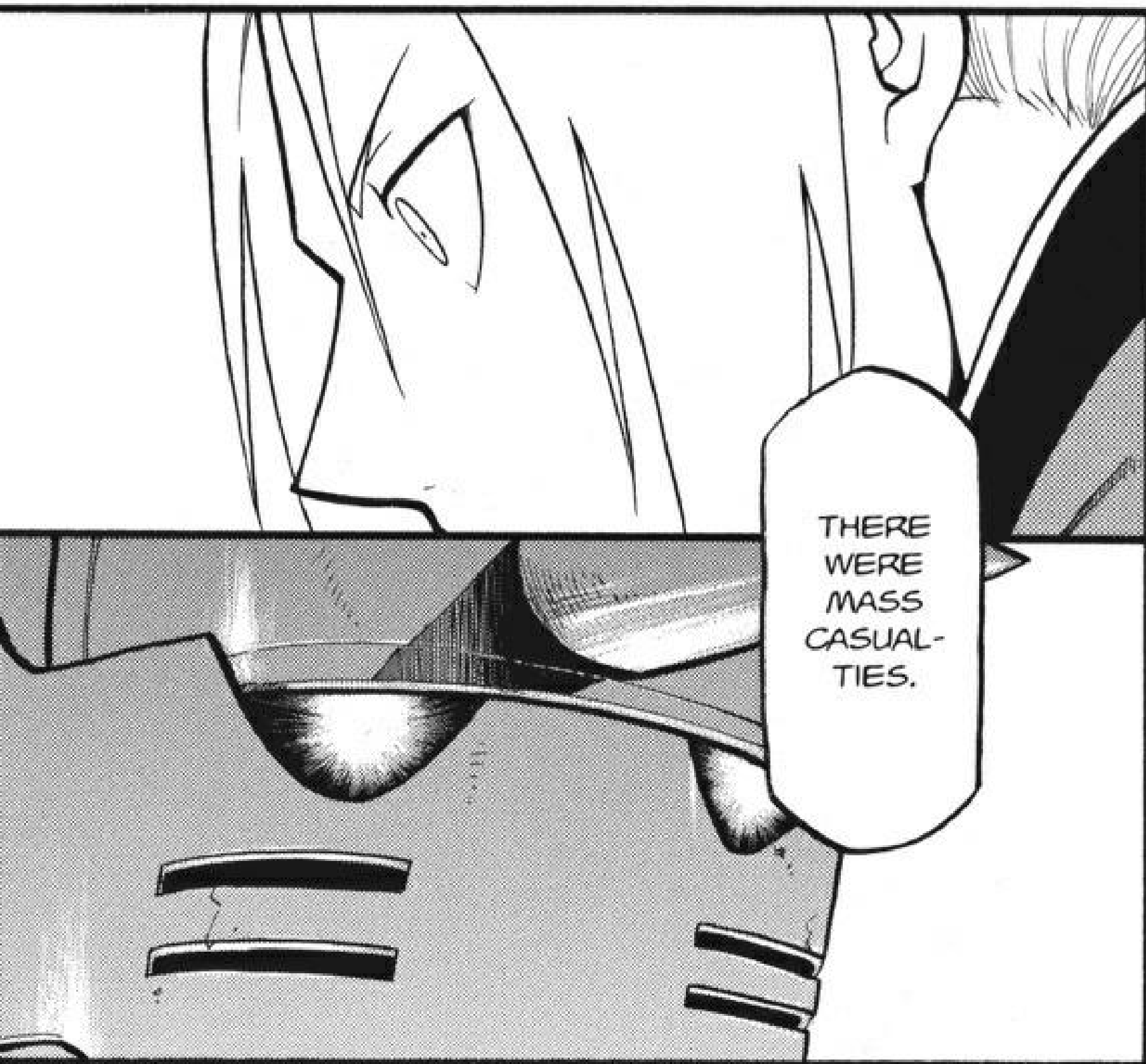






2ND LT. FAL-MAN.





THERE
WERE
MASS
CASUAL-
TIES.



...AND
FINALLY,
1914.

THE
REOLE
RIOT.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

AFTER I
EXPOSED
THE FOUNDER
OF THE
RELIGION
AS A FRAUD,
I IMMEDIATELY
REPORTED TO
EASTERN HQ,
DIDN'T I?

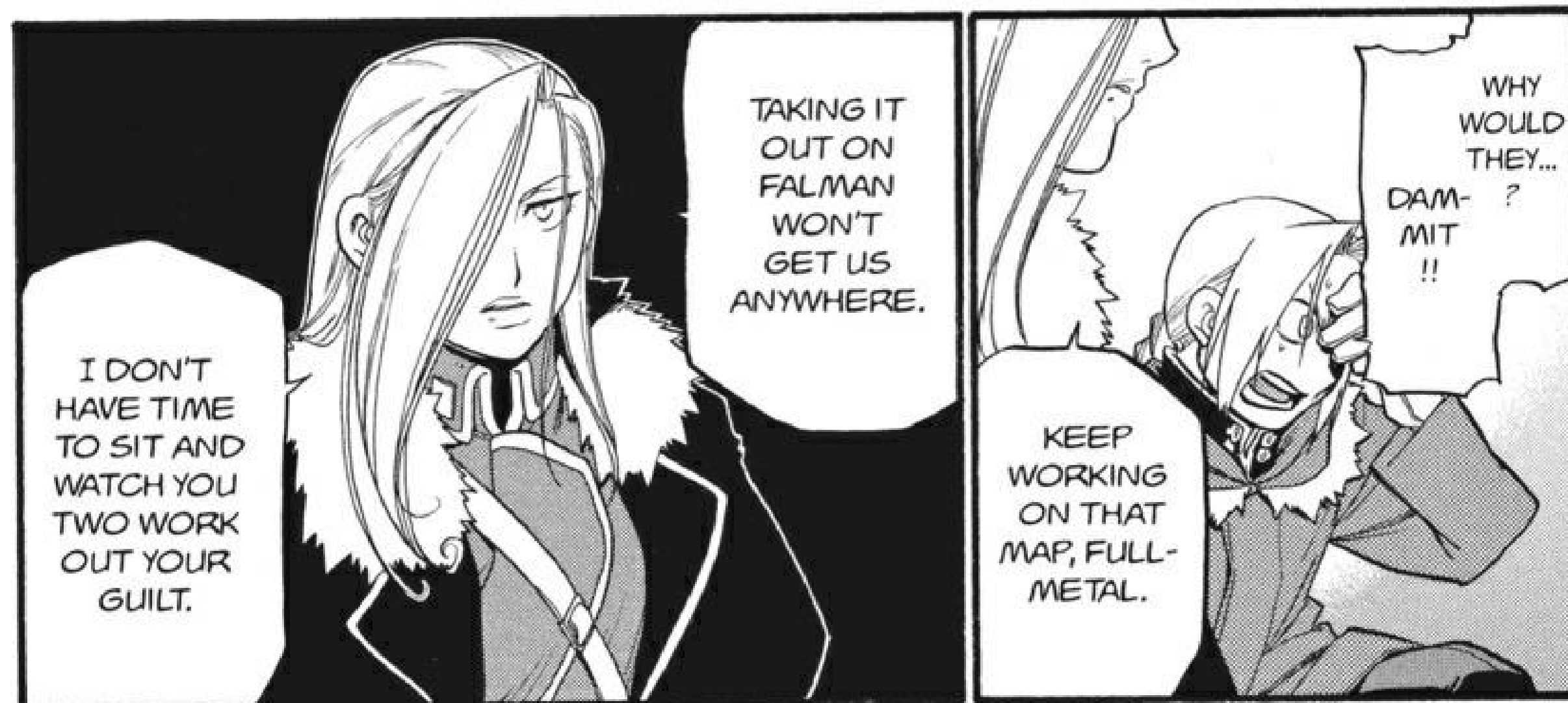


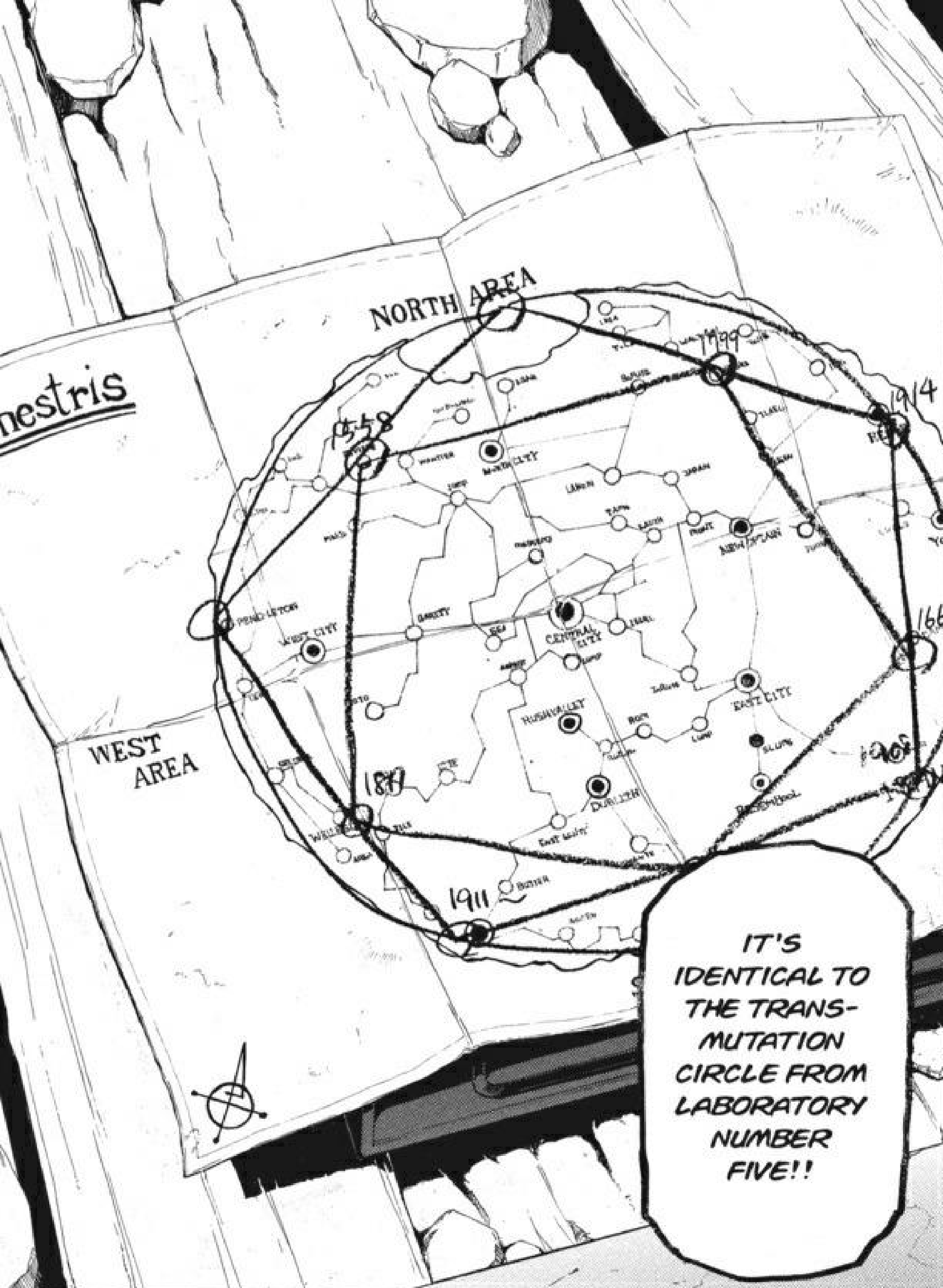
WE LOST
JURISDICTION
OF THE
SITE
TO THE
CENTRAL
CITY
TROOPS
THAT
CAME
LATER!



THEN
HOW
DID
THINGS
GO SO
HORRIBLY
WRONG
?!

AND THE
EAST AREA
TROOPS
MOBILIZED
AND
STOPPED
A RIOT
BEFORE IT
BEGAN.





...HOW
CAN
THIS
BE?



HOW MANY
LIVES
WOULD BE
SACRIFICED
IF SOMEONE
CREATED A
STONE WITH A
CIRCLE THIS
HUGE?!



IS THAT
THE CIRCLE
THAT USES
HUMAN
LIVES TO
CREATE THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE?!



BUT HE
JUST
LAUGHED
AND
SAID...

"YOU'RE
ALMOST
RIGHT.
YOU'RE SO
CLOSE."

...THAT'S
WHAT I
ONCE
ASKED
ENVY.

"YOU'RE
TRYING
TO USE
THIS
COUNTRY
TO
CREATE A
PHILOS-
OPHER'S
STONE,
AREN'T
YOU?"



THE
TRUTH
THAT LIES
WITHIN
IS THE
EXISTENCE
OF THOSE
WHO GAVE
THAT
ORDER.

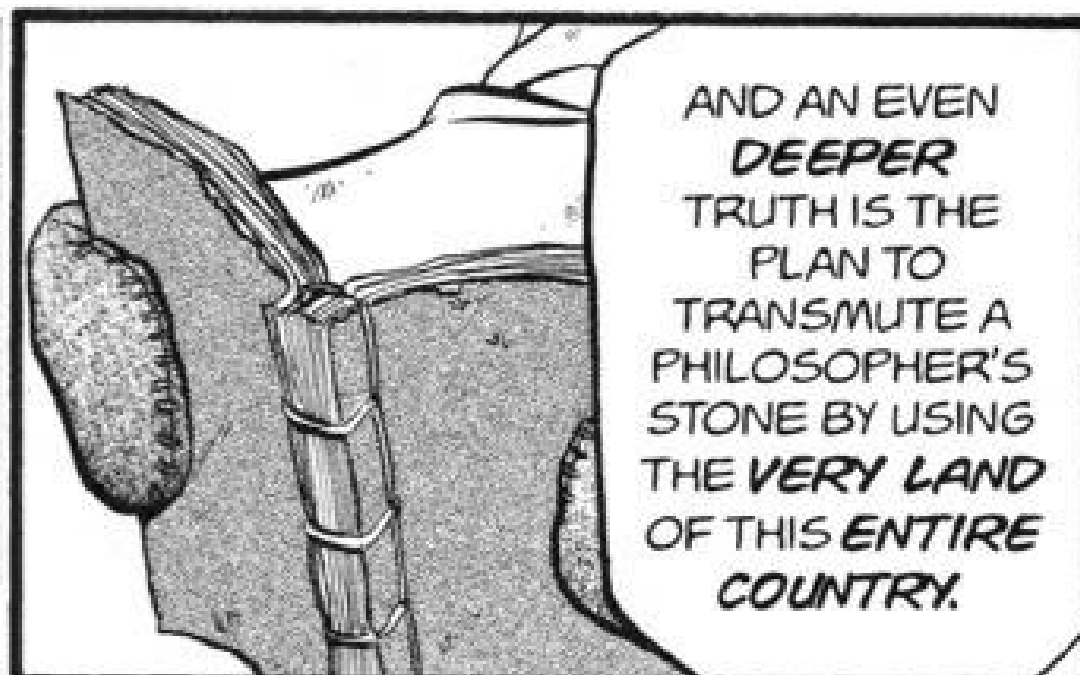
THE
TRUTH
IS THAT
THE MAIN
REAGENT
FOR
CREATING
A PHILOS-
OPHER'S
STONE IS
A LIVING
HUMAN
BEING.

AND ONCE I
TOLD EDWARD,
"YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO SEE
THE TRUTH
THAT LIES
WITHIN THE
TRUTH."



THERE
MUST
BE
SOME-
THING
MORE...

BUT
THAT'S
NOT
ALL.



AND AN EVEN
DEEPER
TRUTH IS THE
PLAN TO
TRANSMUTE A
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE BY USING
THE **VERY LAND**
OF THIS **ENTIRE**
COUNTRY.



THERE
MUST
BE
SOME-
THING
MORE
!

NO...



SURE
!!

MAY,
I
NEED
YOUR
HELP.

WITH MY
KNOWLEDGE
OF ALCHEMY AND
YOUR UNDER-
STANDING OF THE
PURIFICATION
ARTS, WE MUST
BE ABLE TO
DECIPHER THESE
RESEARCH
NOTES!



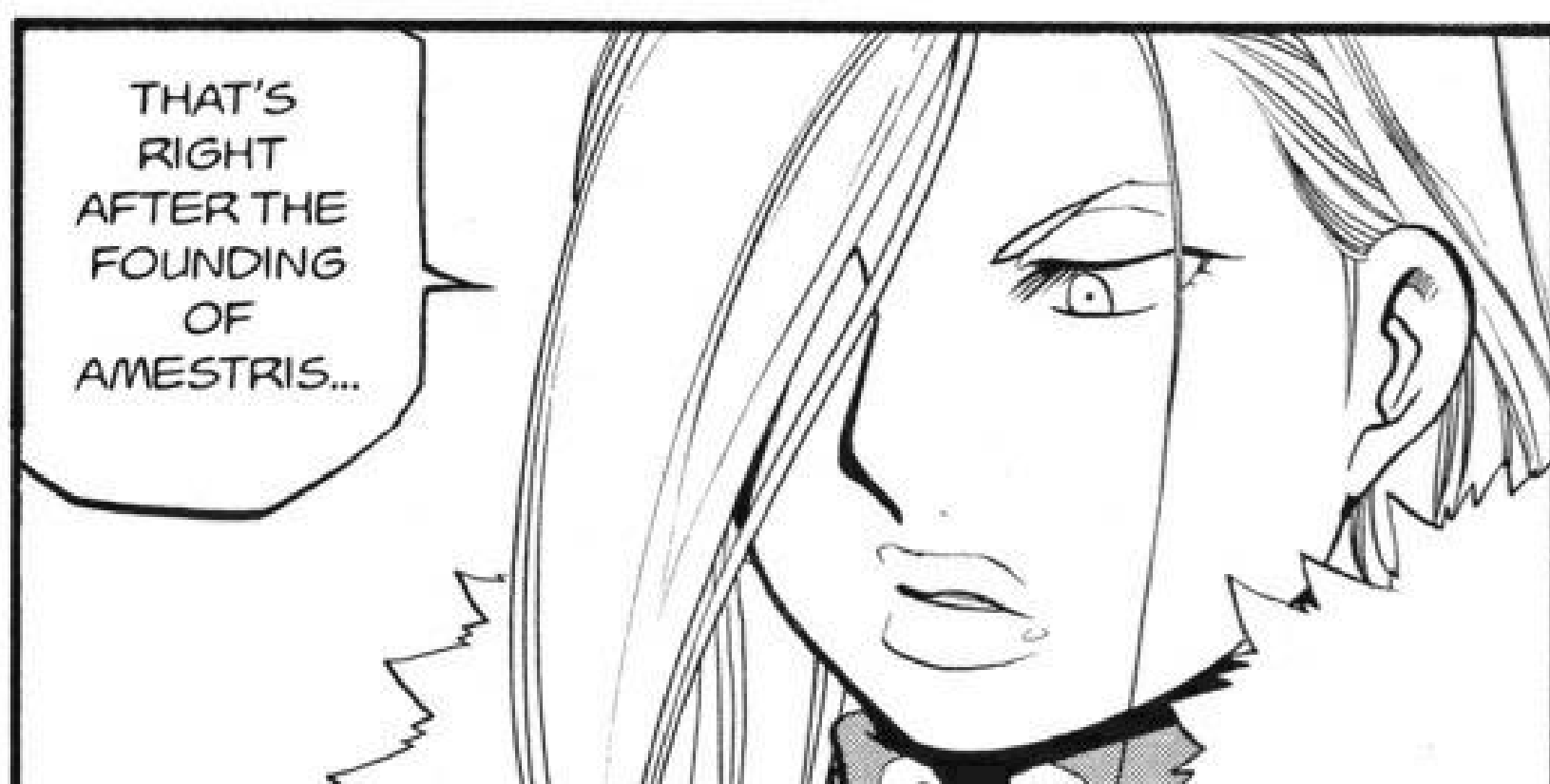
THE
OLDEST
IS THE
RIVIERE
INCIDENT
OF 1558,
CORRECT
?

HUH
?



LIKE MORE
WHAT?
WHAT
MORE
COULD
THERE
BE?

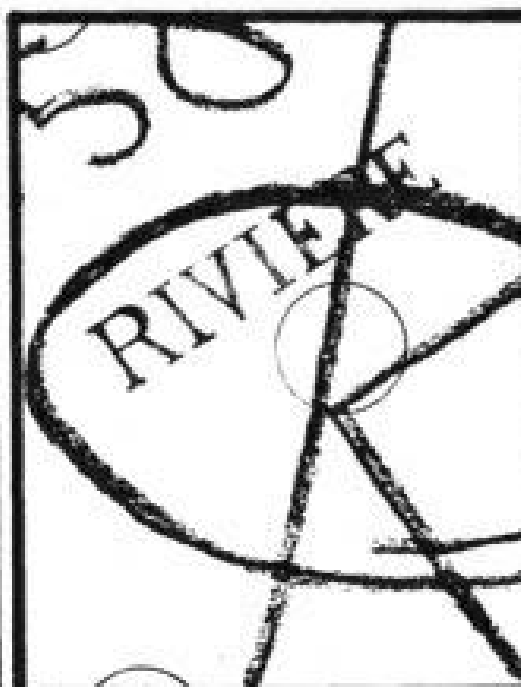
LIKE...
US
BEING
CANDI-
DATES
FOR
"HUMAN
SACRI-
FICE."



THAT'S
RIGHT
AFTER THE
FOUNDING
OF
AMESTRIS...



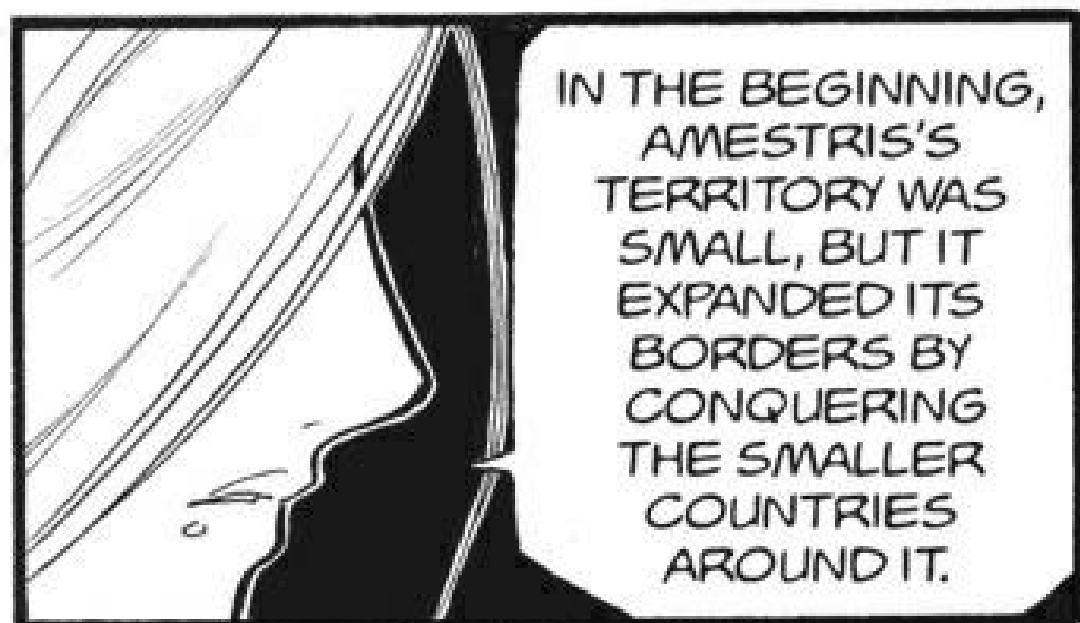
WAIT
A
SEC'...



THEY
ATTACKED
RIVIERE, A
NEIGHBORING
NATION,
WITHOUT FIRST
DECLARING
WAR.



THAT
MEANS
THE
MILITARY
WAS
INVOLVED
IN EVERY
ONE OF
THESE
INCI-
DENTS
!!



IN THE BEGINNING,
AMESTRIS'S
TERRITORY WAS
SMALL, BUT IT
EXPANDED ITS
BORDERS BY
CONQUERING
THE SMALLER
COUNTRIES
AROUND IT.



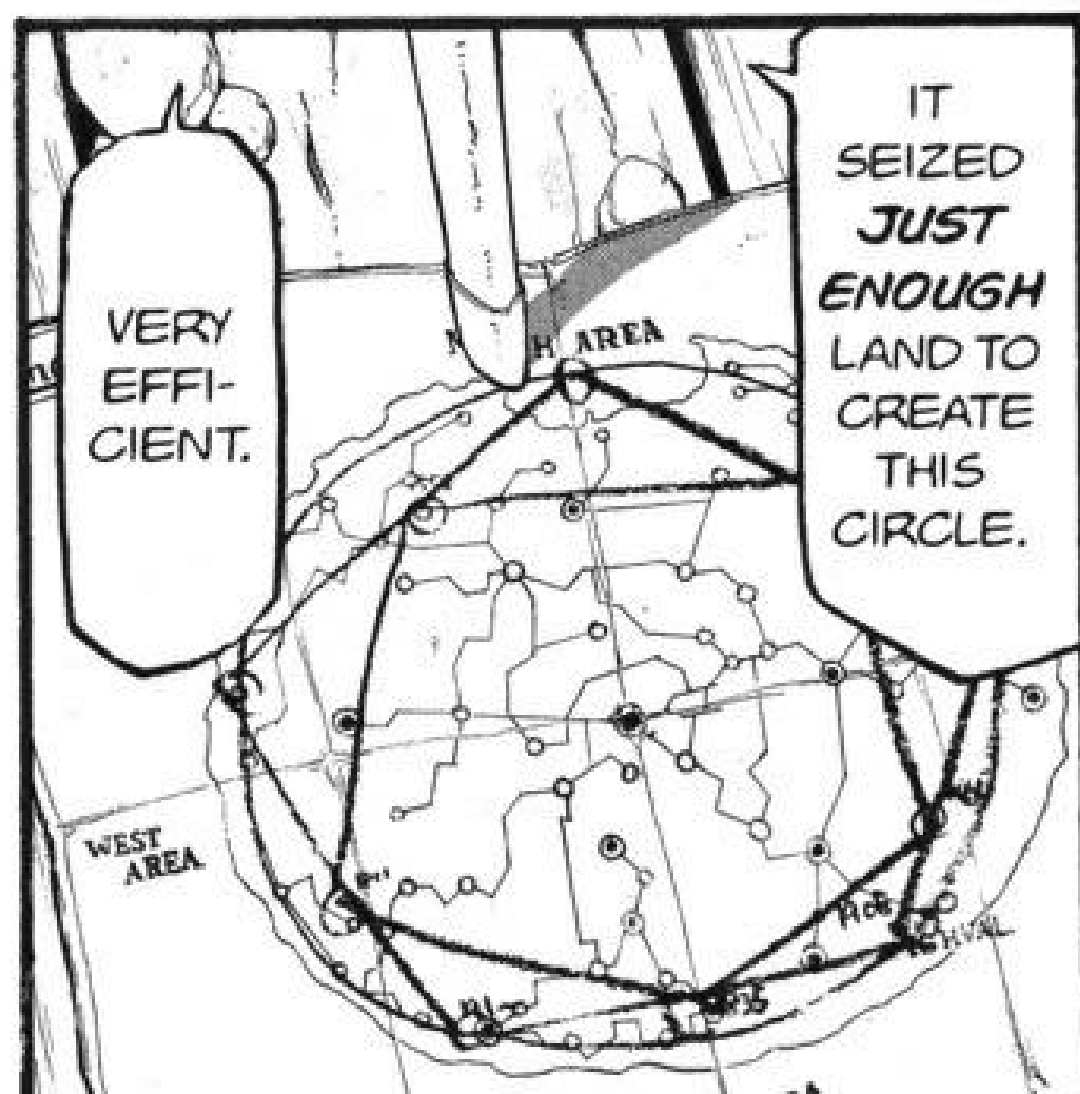
THIS HAS
BEEN
HAPPENING
SINCE
THE
FOUNDING
OF THIS
COUNTRY...
!!



IT WAS
ALWAYS
EITHER
A COUP
D'ETAT
OR A
CIVIL
WAR.

REOLE
WAS
NO
DIFFER-
ENT.

NORMALLY, THE
SECT LEADER
WOULD HAVE
BEEN KILLED
AND THAT WOULD
HAVE BEEN THE
END OF IT, BUT
THE CENTRAL
CITY TROOPS
CAME AND
MADE AN EVEN
BIGGER
MESS OUT
OF IT.



VERY
EFFI-
CIENT.

IT
SEIZED
JUST
ENOUGH
LAND TO
CREATE
THIS
CIRCLE.



...THEY
CREATED
THIS COUNTRY
FROM SCRATCH
IN ORDER TO
ACCOMPLISH
THEIR GOAL?

SO THEY
WEREN'T
TRYING TO
ACCOMPLISH
THEIR GOAL
BY USING
THIS
COUNTRY...



EVERY-
THING WENT
ACCORDING
TO THEIR
PLAN.

QUITE
A RA-
TIONAL
STRAT-
EGY.



...WAS
TO
SERVE
THIS
PLOT
?

YOU'RE
SAYING
THE ONLY
REASON
THIS
COUNTRY
ACCEPTED
A MILITARY
DICTATOR-
SHIP...

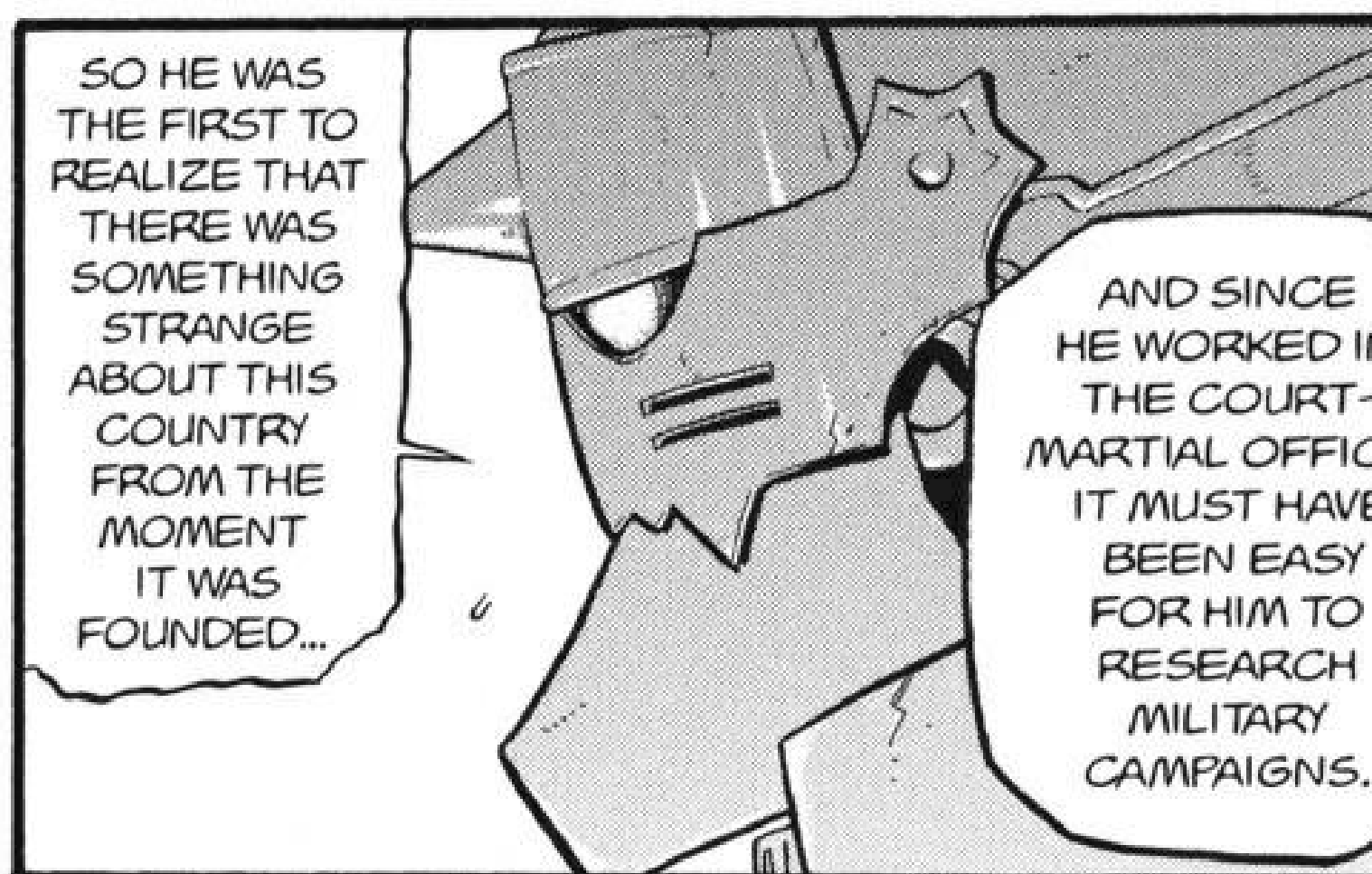


UH-
HUH.

THEN,
MR.
HUGHES
WAS-
!!

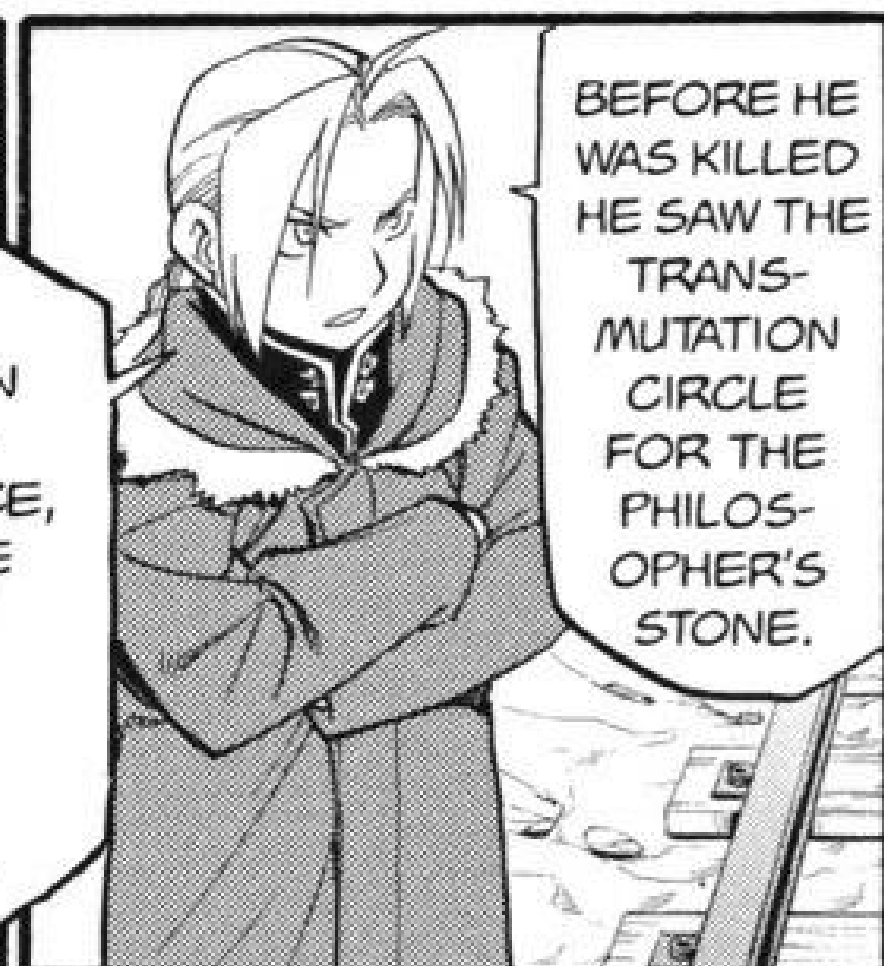


IT'S
LIKE
IT'S
ALL A
GAME
TO
THEM...

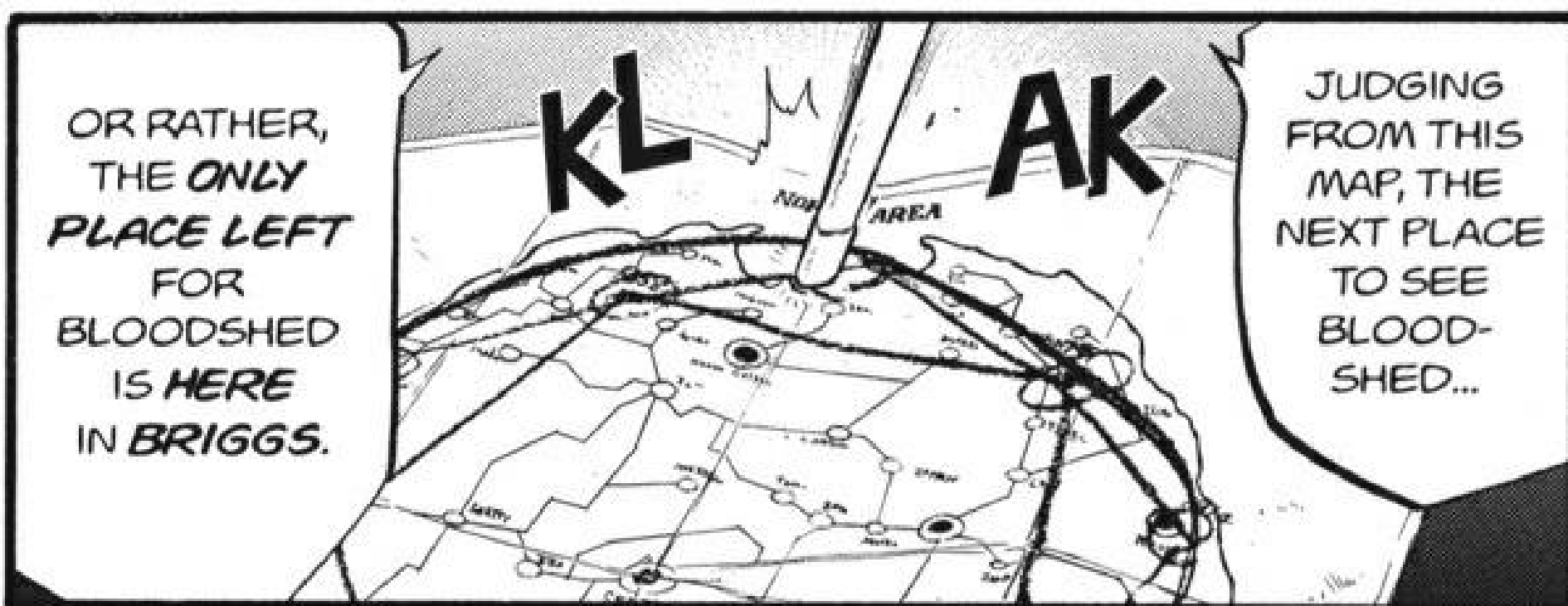


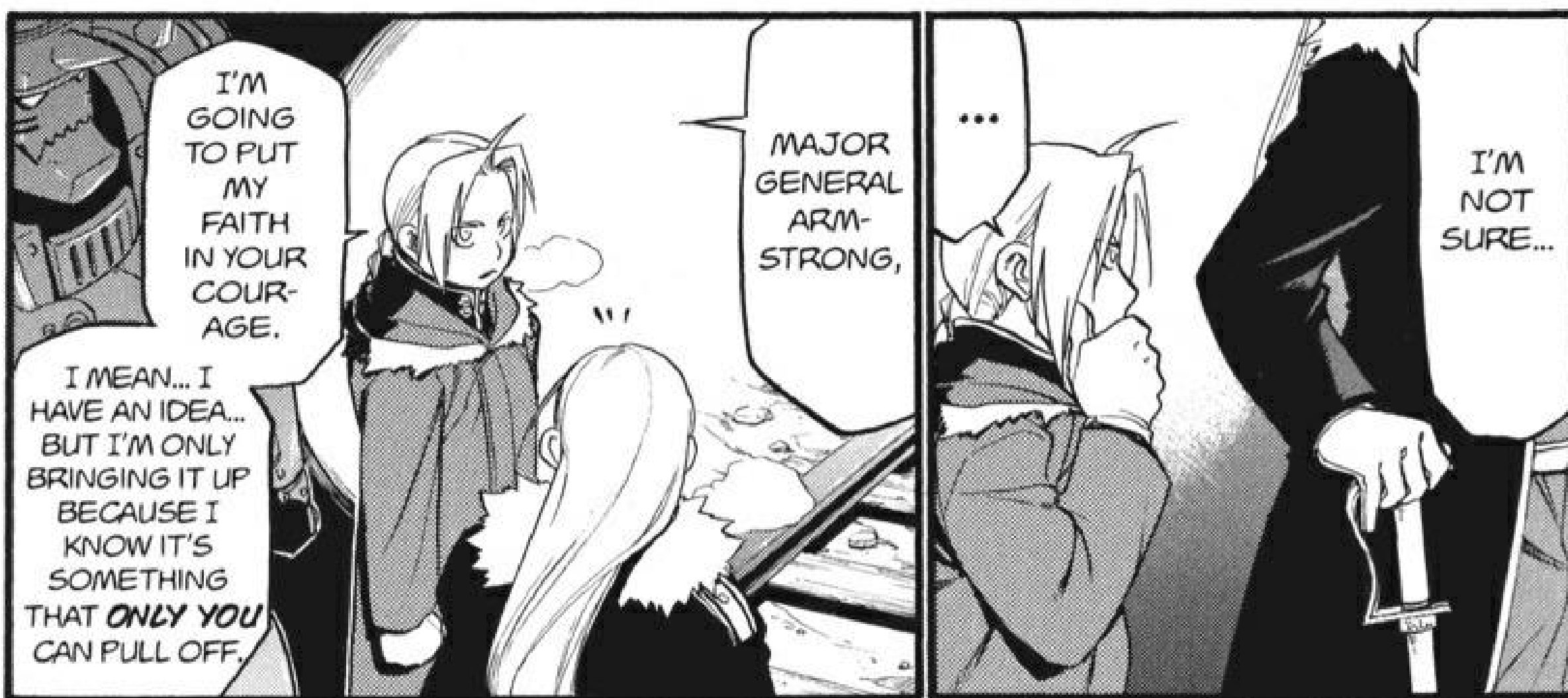
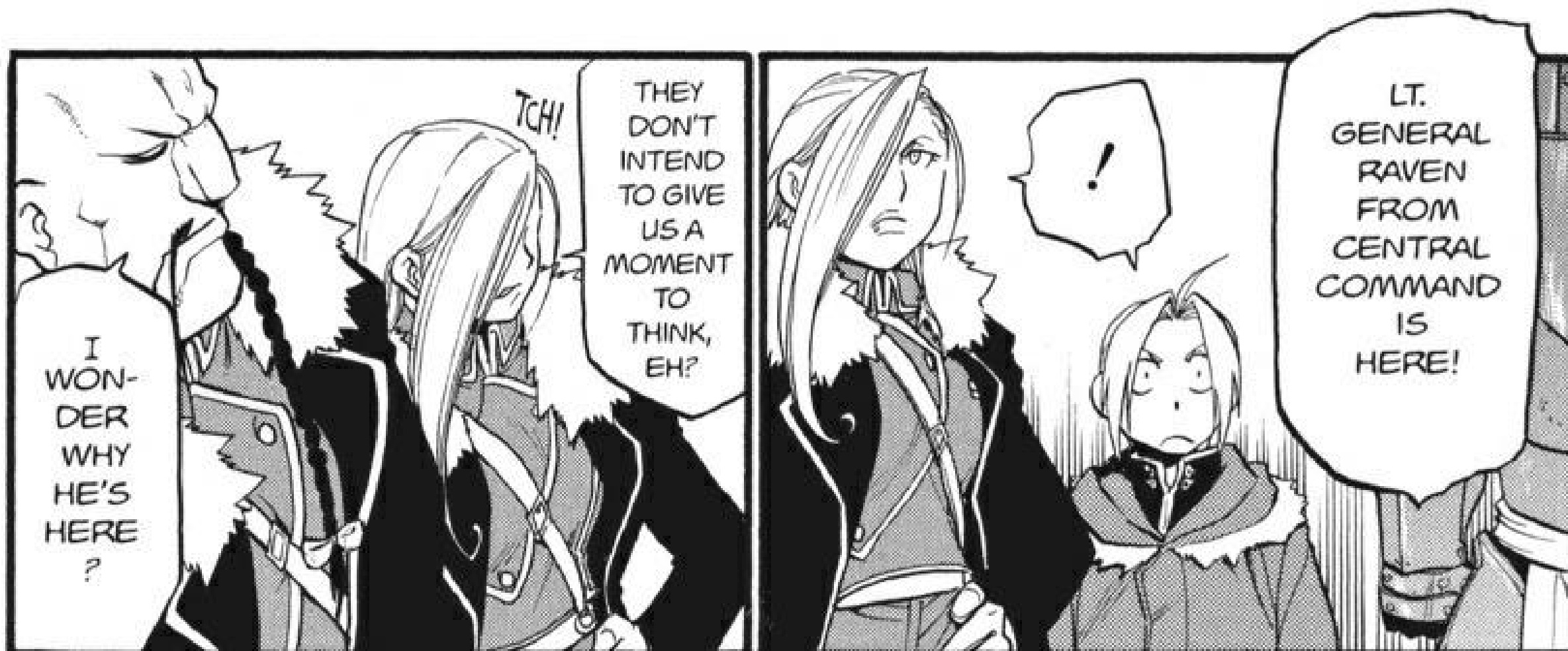
SO HE WAS
THE FIRST TO
REALIZE THAT
THERE WAS
SOMETHING
STRANGE
ABOUT THIS
COUNTRY
FROM THE
MOMENT
IT WAS
FOUNDED...

AND SINCE
HE WORKED IN
THE COURT-
MARTIAL OFFICE,
IT MUST HAVE
BEEN EASY
FOR HIM TO
RESEARCH
MILITARY
CAMPAIGNS.

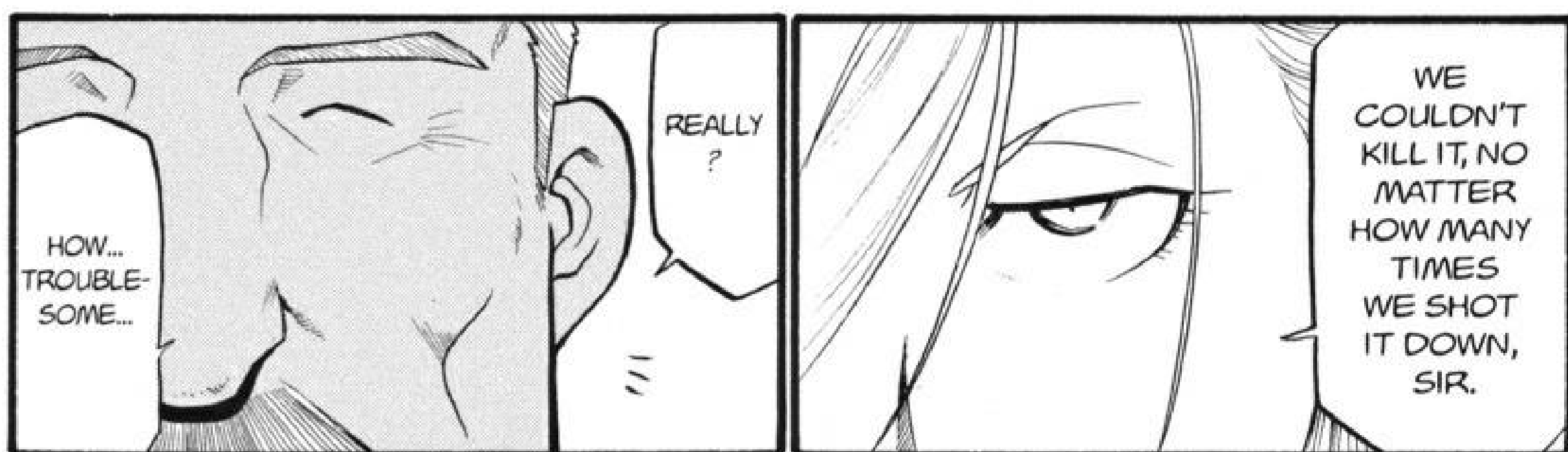
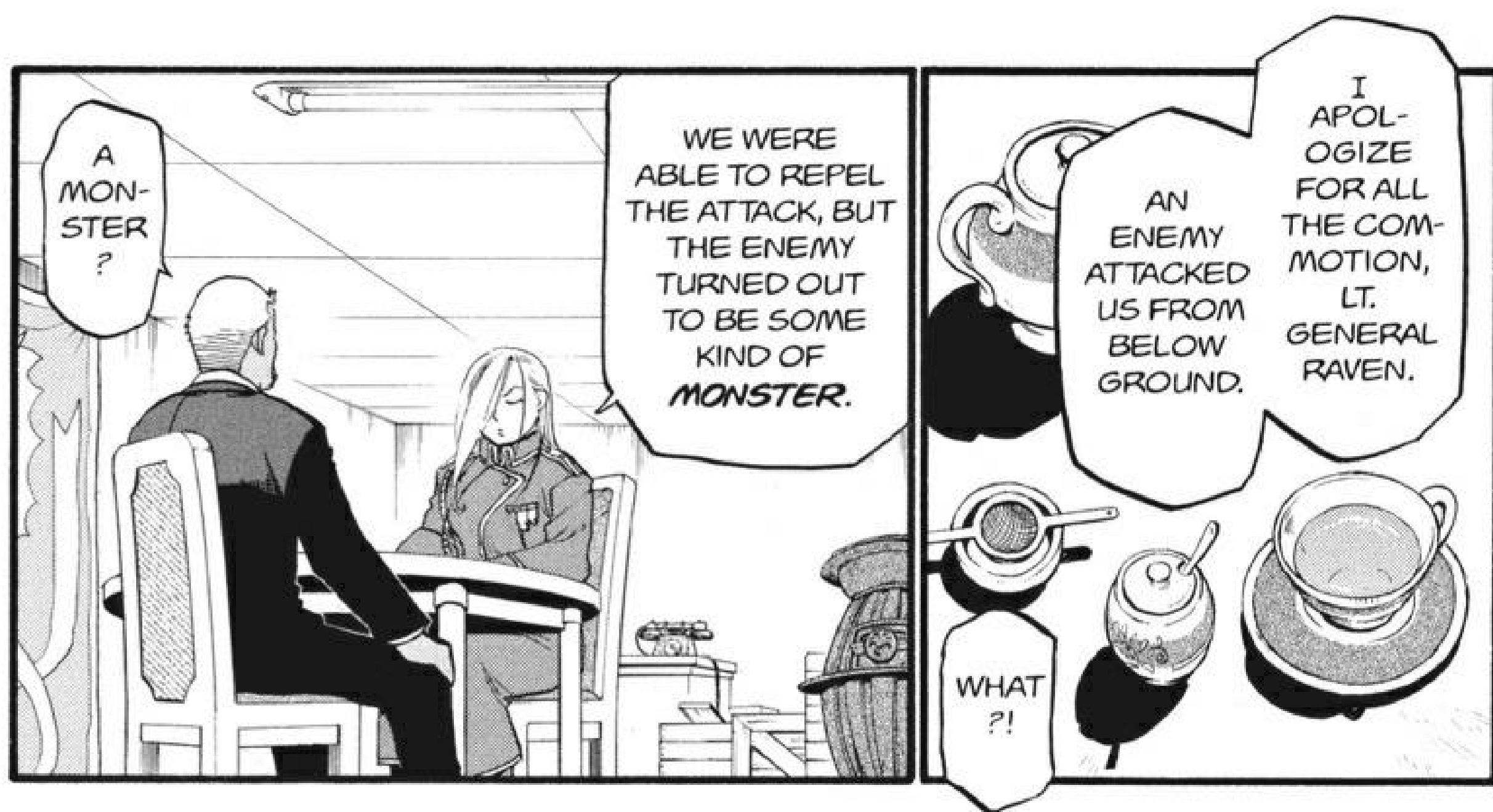


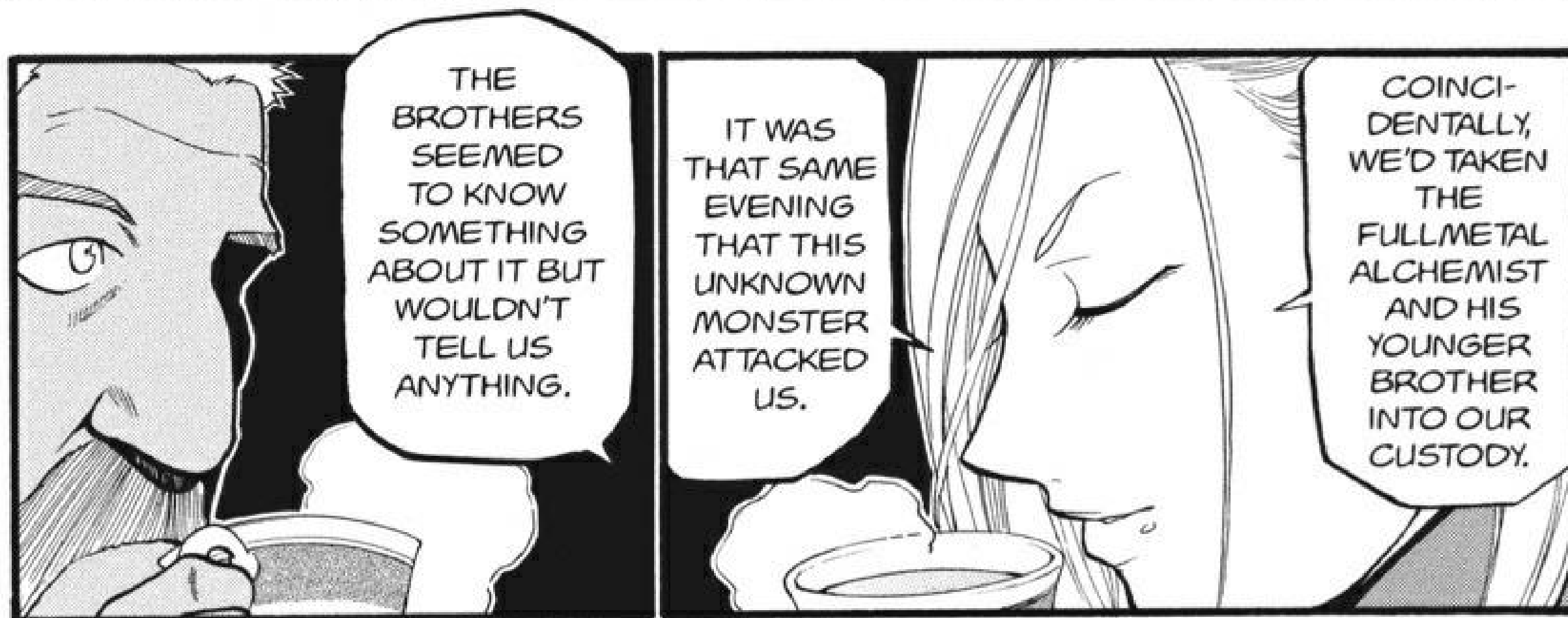
BEFORE HE
WAS KILLED
HE SAW THE
TRANS-
MUTATION
CIRCLE
FOR THE
PHILOS-
OPHER'S
STONE.



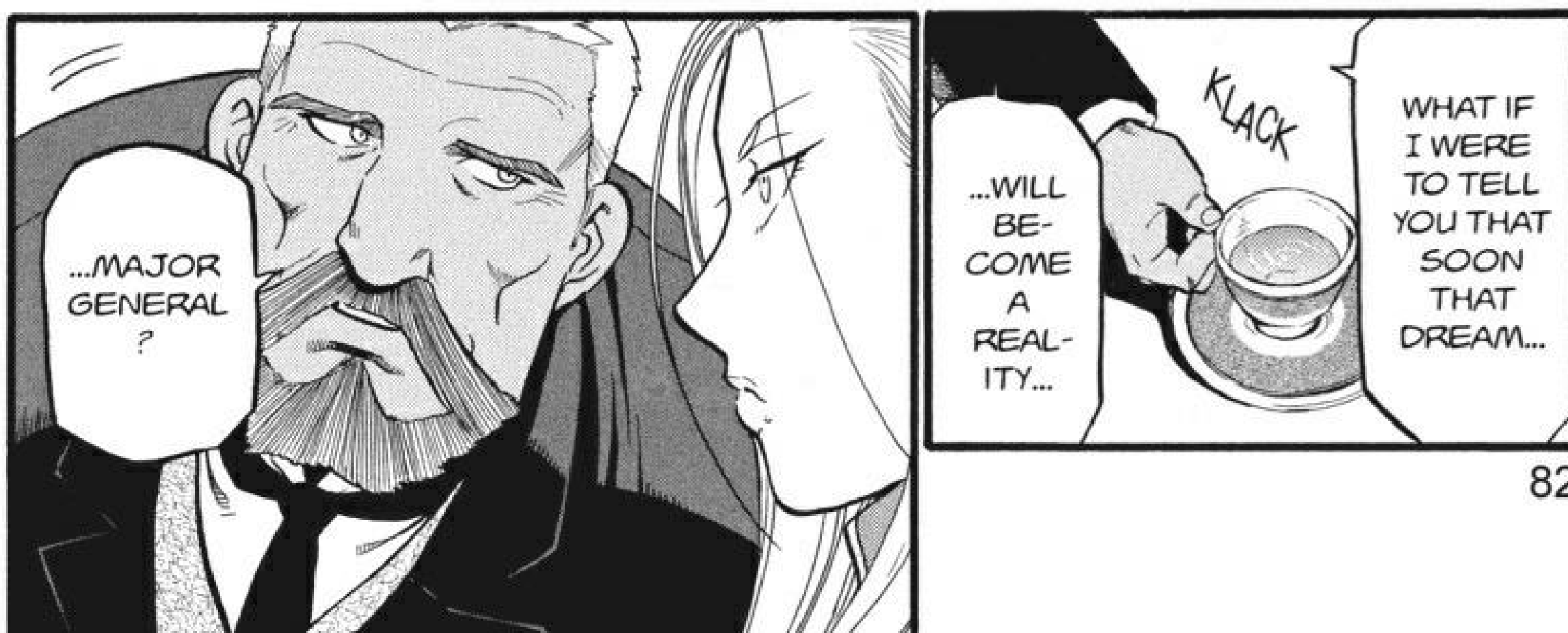
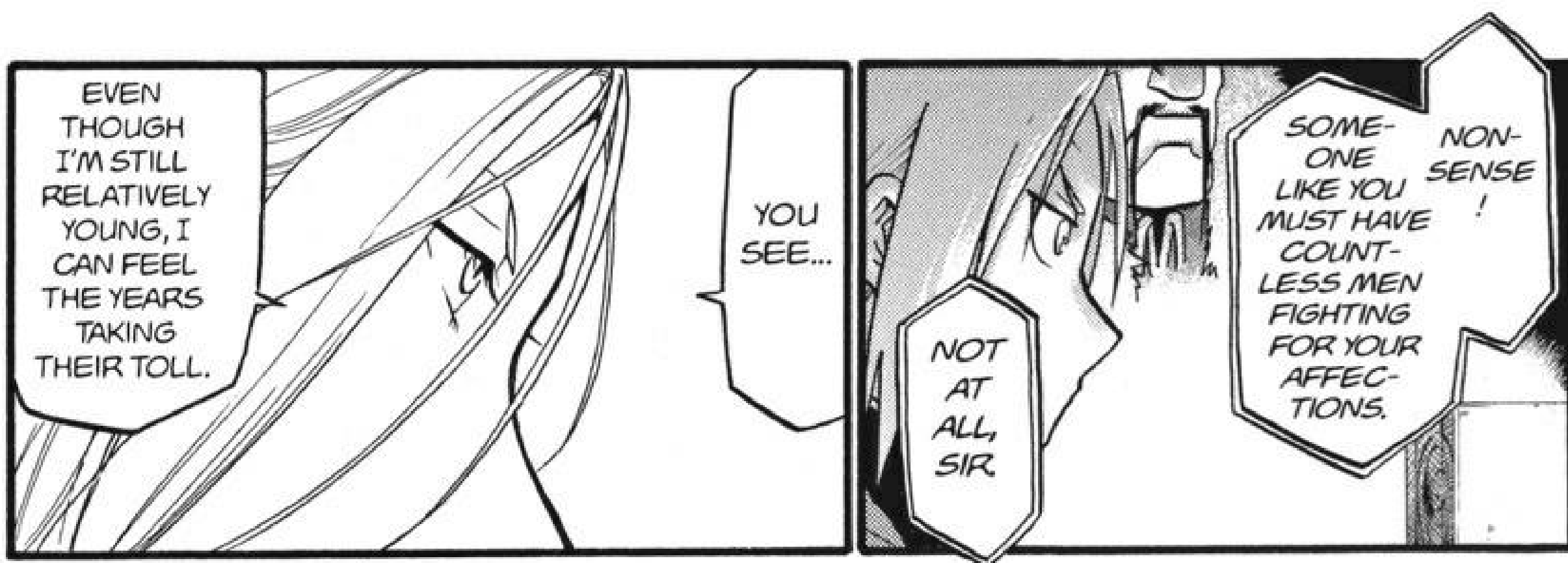














JUST
IMAGINE—
AN
ENTIRELY
IMMORTAL
ARMY!

HE
TOOK
THE
BAIT
!!



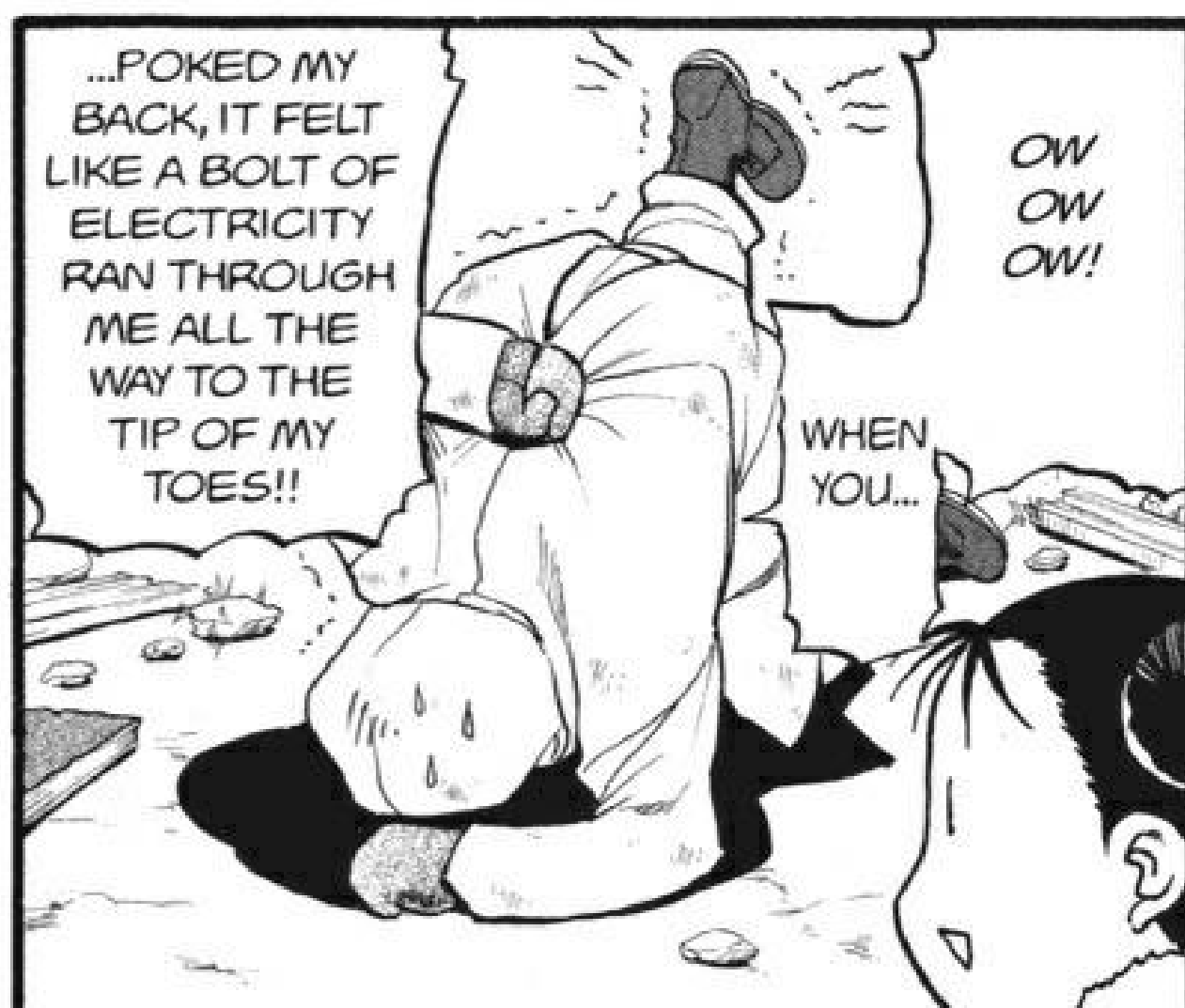
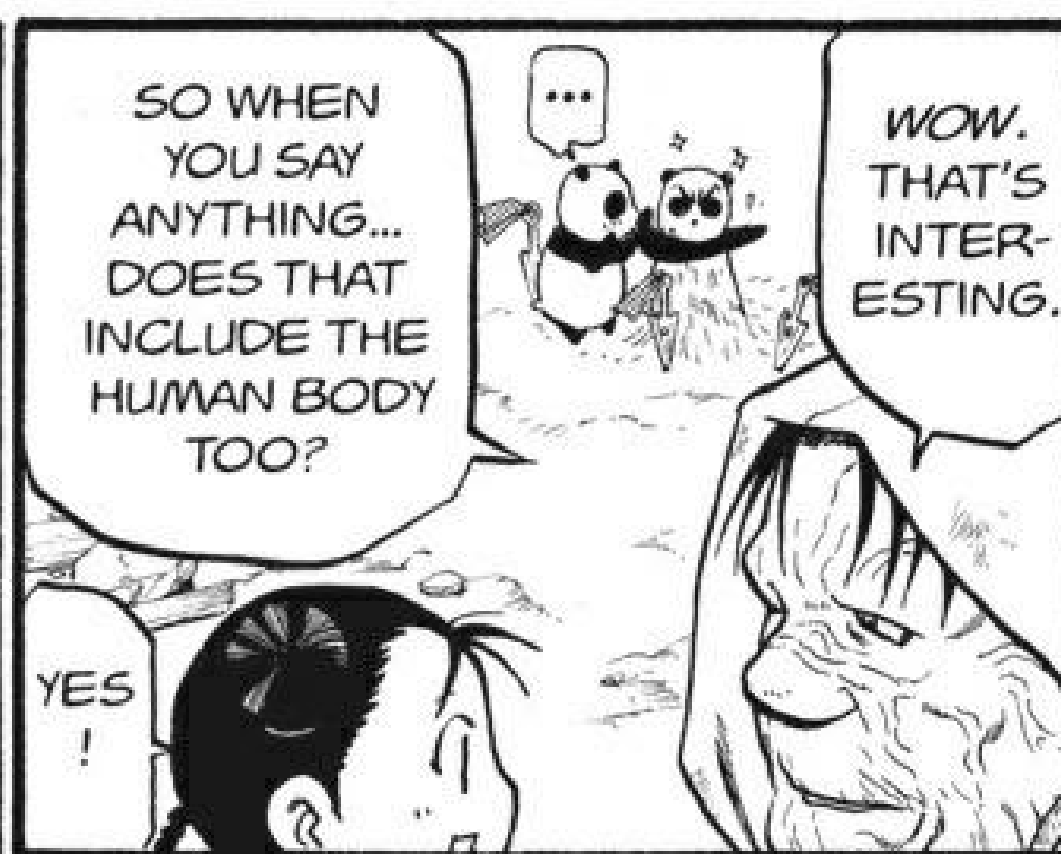
LIKE A LIFE
FORCE, THE
ENERGY
MAINTAINS
HARMONY
IN THE
WORLD.

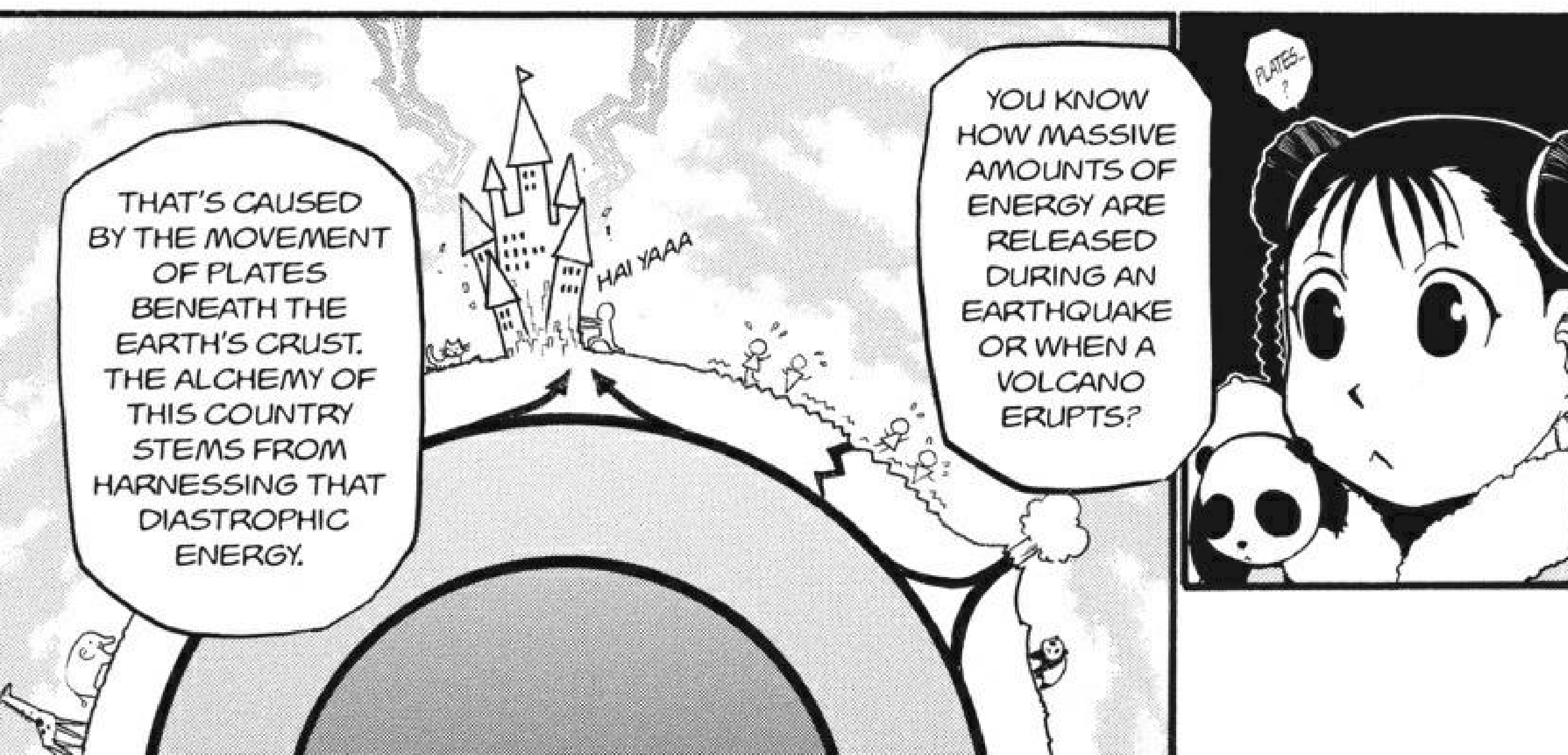
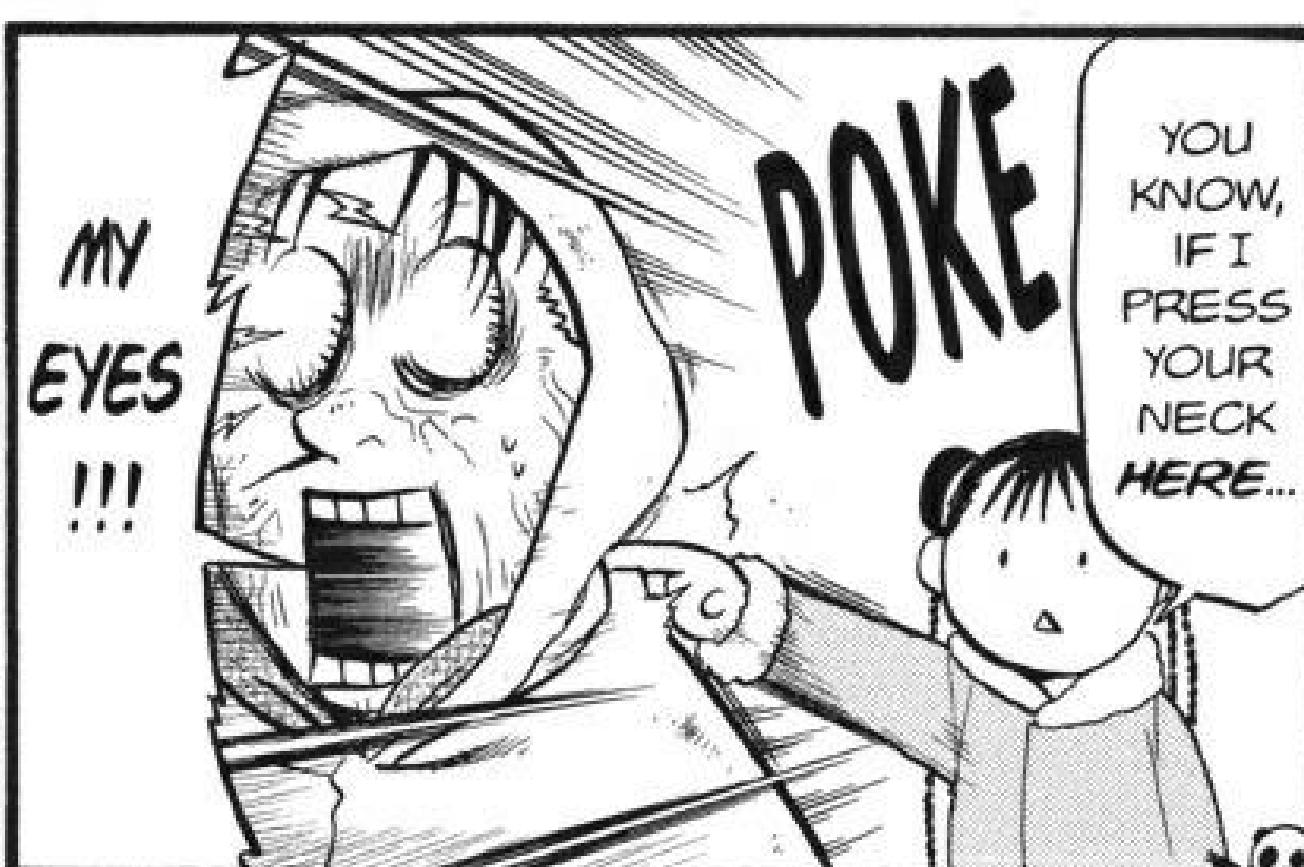
THE
EARTH...
?

YOU
SEE...
THE
EARTH
ITSELF
HAS AN
ENERGY.

I STILL
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THE
PRACTITIONERS
OF THE
PURIFICATION
ARTS MEAN
BY THE
"DRAGON'S
PULSE."









ACCORDING TO LEGEND, A PHILOSOPHER FROM THE EAST GAVE US THOSE EQUATIONS, BUT...

IN FACT, THE EQUATIONS FOR DOING THAT WERE COMPLETED OVER 350 YEARS AGO.



IT'S FROM THE MOVEMENT OF LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE.

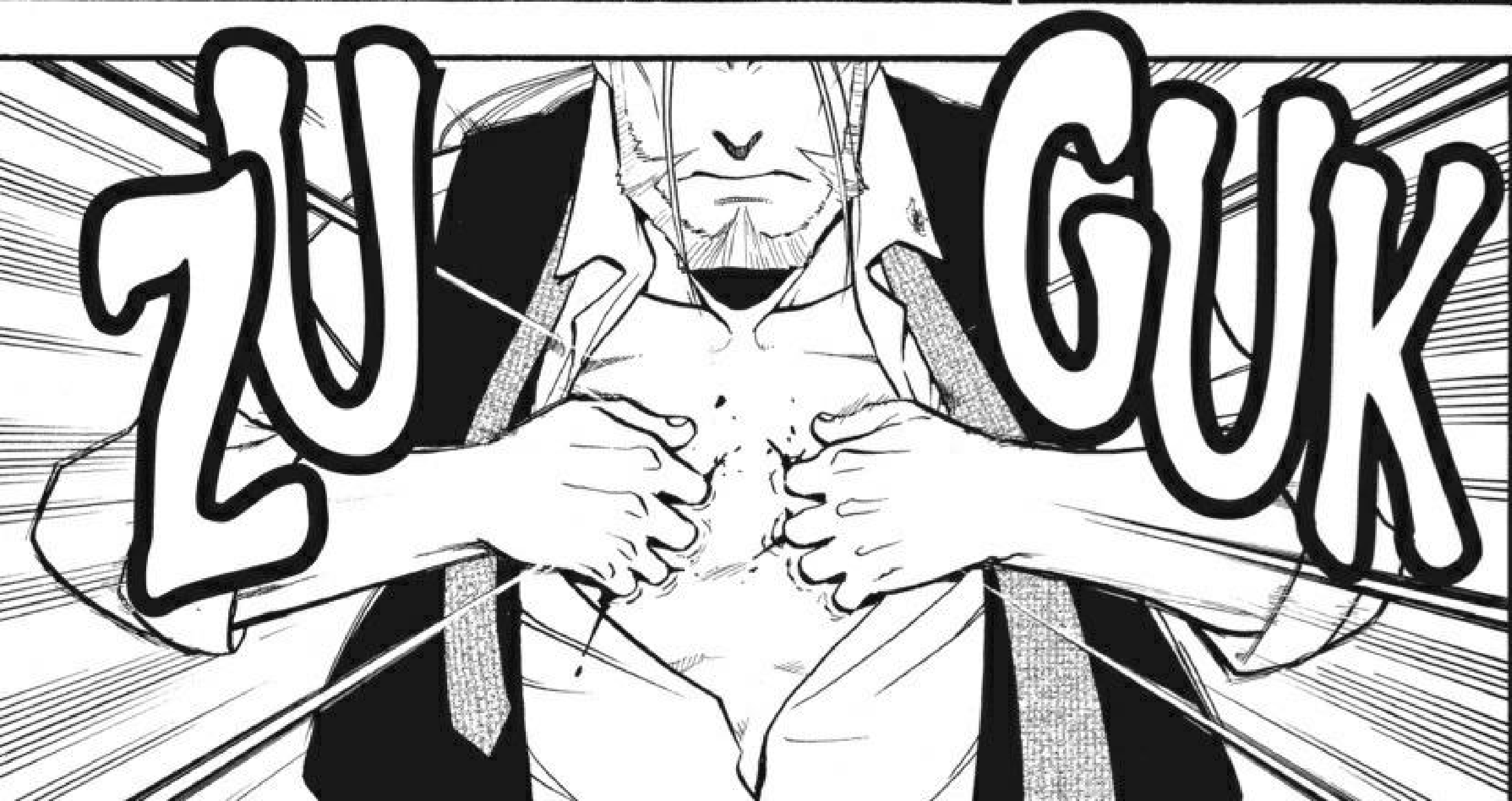


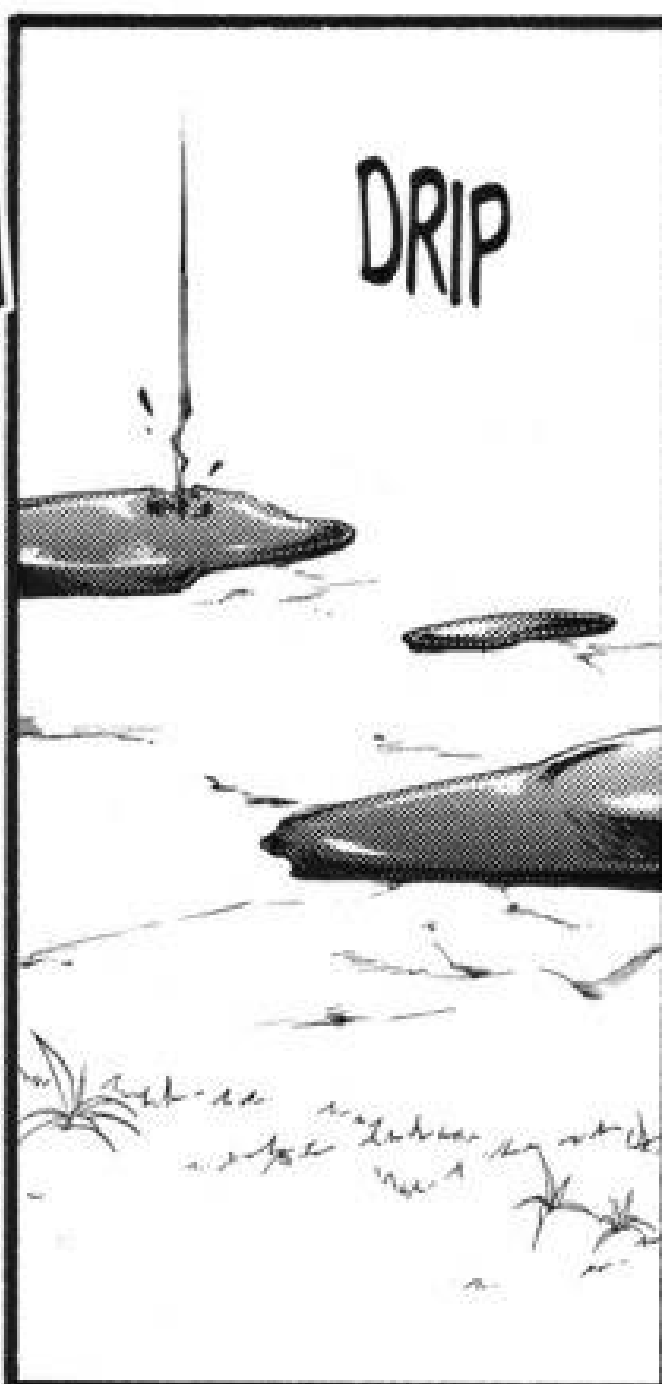
I'VE HAD A FUNNY FEELING EVER SINCE I FIRST CAME TO THIS COUNTRY...

...AND THAT FEELING GOT CLEAR TO ME THE OTHER DAY WHEN I WAS IN THE TUNNELS UNDER CENTRAL CITY.



THIS POWER THAT FLOWS BENEATH OUR FEET ISN'T COMING FROM THE MOVEMENT OF THE EARTH'S PLATES...









FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST